

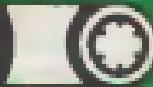


F-16 COMBAT PILOT

Burning the Skylines

Space Rogue • Maze Mania

If there's no cassette on this cover
ask your Newsagent where it is!



**4 FREE
GAMES!**



Dan Dare III

GRAPHIC SEX

Meaningless
titillation
or harmful
preoccupation?



Toobin'
Ghostbusters II
Chase HQ



ISSN 0265-6277



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FUN ★ 1



ON THE TAPE

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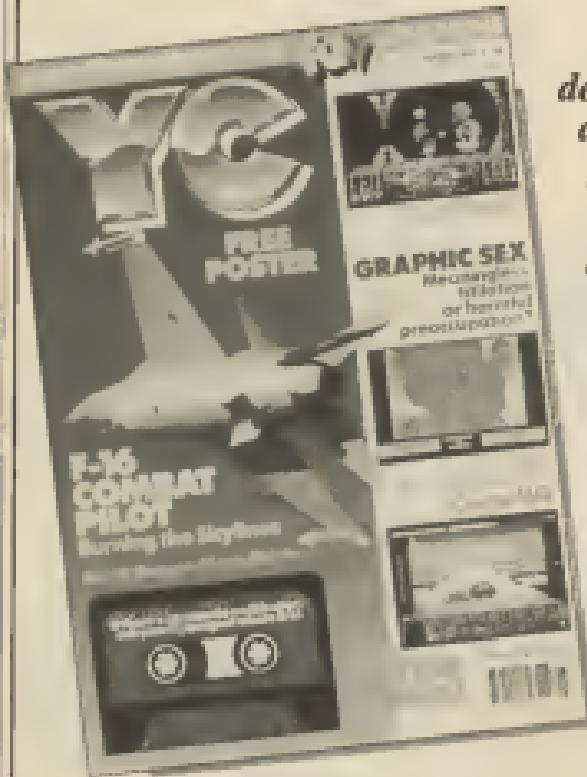
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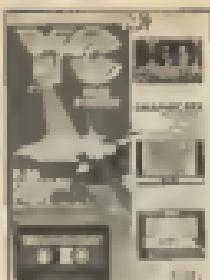
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Lewis, Robert Johnson, Michael
McGregor, Steve Neagle, Michael

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Cover design Steve Neagle

BUT FIRST THIS...

We just been flicking through a copy of January's *CG* as one does occasionally and low and behold there is not one single *CG4* game review! Therefore I would like to take this opportunity to wish the *CG* team great fortune in their new market and I would also like to welcome all the *CG4* readers that they have abandoned. We are the only *CG4/C126* dedicated magazine (I think) and we're proud of it too.

One thing though. Ever since the new *TC* appeared it has been made clear to us that we have made a decision that not everybody is happy with. The readers that relished the reviews and serious critics seem to have been alienated by our change towards a game based magazine. Again I must stress that today's *CG4* market is 60%+ *CG4* majority games based and I'm sorry if anybody doesn't

realise that I don't wish you all to go away but if you do wish to sample another magazine that costs far your taxes I'd recommend *Commodore Disk User* our sister title you won't be disappointed.

Now onto this cassette. Over the three issues of *TC* so far you've had twelve games (seventeen games for *CG4* plus three wonderful mega-of course!) but in the future things are likely to change.

No doubt you've seen a gallery or demo-column in many other mag. We intend to go one step further as we'd like to put your graphical/maze/skill/demo on the tape so that everyone can hear and see them for themselves. As an incentive yous (if used) will win a wonderful mystery prize. Here we go to decide what it is that it's worth mega-bucks to send in now.

Yours until Post Apoclypse
shows my head in a joyridic part
Mike Henderson



WATCH YOURSELF

TC and ZEON have joined
forces to offer 25 readers a
brand new watch.

Following the Ghostbusters logo
as the face, the new line of
Zeon watches are superb in
design (they even help the
time!). And to be in with a chance of
winning one, all you have to do is
answer the following stunningly
simple questions.

Write the answers down on the back
of a sealed envelope (or postcard)
and send them by March 24th to:

Just In Time Company
TC
Augus House
Boundary Way
Hemel Hempstead
Herts HP2 7PT

If you want to buy a Zeon
Ghostbusters watch in the following
countries, what currency would you
need?

- 1. France
- 2. Germany
- 3. Russia
- 4. Greece
- 5. Australia

The first 25 correct entries drawn out
of the proverbial hat will win a
watch.

If by some misfortune you have
failed to win, they are available at
all branches of M. Samuel's Jewellers.

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D>T<

Damark's *Fengen* collecting has the brilliantly naff title of *Fugao* from the *Poker of the Four Elements*, although the style is descended from being comic book, there's a distinct air of *Smash Heroes* (John and Don Jond on *Aliens*) & *Warcraft* (Peleus, Sarah Bellamy in *Aliens*), brainless *Warcraft* Replicas.

One day why the *Warcraft* folks have to make it even more like the *Aliens*? *Killers*, who have been given up to making on a lot of rocks. They eventually seem to enjoy each other's company.

Games and release dates are anybody's guess but it's definitely *Warcraft* in 1994 maybe.

Wings of Fury is the Domark/Broderbund release set during the Second World War.

As pilot of a He 111 the player has to provide air support for US *Waco* a badly damaged aircraft carrier. In glorious 3D you can stalk, dive, bomb and dogfight enemy planes, ships and soldiers. The aim being to protect the *Waco* while turning the Japanese Empire into the land of the shifting sons. *Wings of Fury* has added its wing to the shops and will break a £14.99 sized hole in your savings.

The European Group has turned in Domark software division's and Mandam Software into a separate unit today, which means that *Edipix* must make them a viable self supporting proposition.

Domark tomorrow will now be the umbrella name covering the *Edipix* software, Domark Educational Software and Mandam. Edipix' reach will remain in own label and代理.

The *Fun-Office* business program sure is definitely the biggest selling product which the new company inherits but *Fun School* 2 has built up an unprecedented sales record for an educational product while Mandam has not been without success in the games and game-construction program area. During the year the company will be releasing over 20 titles so we should be hearing more soon.

British Telecom has scored a success in the area of video compression. The home grown compression system has been adopted as the heart of the proposed V2160 standard which is expected to have gained final approval at the CCITT during February.

The approval will mean that Vinton will be incorporated in modems and various proprietary networking systems. It's good to see that a British company can still have an international impact in the computer market.



Commodore distributor Parkfield Communications is claiming that *Sonic* was overflooded with computers this year in the biggest hardware boom since 1984.

'With the C64 Light Forecast and *Amiga 500* Batman pack selling well, Loretta Cohen, Parkfield's managing director, sees this as an especially surprising occurrence "showing that the Batman craze can overcome even the Chancellor's tight money policy".

During the run up to Christmas, Commodore and Parkfield hit a landmark with the sale of the 200,000th *Amiga 500*. This makes the machine the most successful 16-bit games computer in the UK. (In other words, bigger than the ST but less than the PC). Maybe one day the *Amiga* may equal the number of sales that the C64 has achieved - one day in the far future though.

When the going gets tough, the tough get...tough. After disappointing American sales figures, Commodore has beefed up its European sales set up.

In general, computer sales in the States are taking a nose dive both in the home computer market and the business sector. In Europe the situation is a lot better and the formation of Euroimex Marketing International is the company's way of trying to grab as much of this market as possible.

OMI is headed by Peter Sprenger, who has been

working with Commodore International for 10 years. The new company is supported by the European Commodore distributor, the right



OMI is not obliged to lend its expertise to promote and market Commodore's Commodore. The idea means that Commodore can concentrate on the programming while Euroimex do all the selling.

The brown paper exercise involves an interactive reference of 1000+ polygons to create a realistic representation of 13th century England. This is the setting of the Plantagenet Kings and Queens, where each character has a different prototype. Good Queen, bad was on the throne. None of this is relevant to the point, however, which involves finding an unbroken line (yes, yet another one!) from one of your queen's coronet way you will have to blust your range of evil spuds and solve a bundle of puzzles.

Follows of the game seem like me also. I'm a new user party, the beer was okay but the spuds were you've got it.



One day it may be possible for a pilot to clock up flying hours without leaving the ground. SubLogic is not only predicting that, it's making money research involving in a reality through its latest product, Flight Controls 1.

Flight Controls is a console which incorporates a steering column and all of the principal controls found in a modern light aircraft. If the US licensing authority, FAA, approves, the combination of Flight Controls and Microsoft's Flight Simulator (written by SubLogic) could constitute a viable "street" flying system, the necessary flying hours which a private pilot needs to maintain a licence.

The fact that SubLogic is even approaching the idea of a ground-based flight simulator have come but would you trust your life to a seat of these flying in their living room?

Although there are no plans to produce the Flight Controls unit for the Obi, SubLogic does have a new stereo disk for its own Flight Simulator, the Smooth and Mason packages. Hawaii Odyssey reproduces the Pacific Islands great detail and includes a mysterious gateway to a fantasy world.

Everything from downtown Honolulu to Pearl Harbour is reproduced and you can even fly over the crater of Mount Loa, one of Hawaii's most volatile volcanoes. Could this be the gateway to the fantasy world?



**HAWAIIAN
ODYSSEY**
SCENERY ADVENTURE

On The Tape



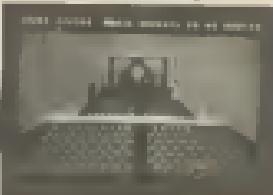
In a dark still night the full moon is shining brightly and the atmosphere is electric. Your heart beats quickly.

You are the JACKAL and you are metamorphosing into a werewolf. You howl at the moon and she fills you with immortal power. You know your task and you will be loyal to the ghosts of DEATH VALLEY.

You can no longer your girlfriend who fled in terror into a HOUSE OF THE UNDEAD. Can you love her before the demons of HELL get to her?

Joystick Or Keyboard

Keys: Z-Left C-Right
Shift-Jump





Steer Clumsey Coin through the streets of this 4-way 3D scrolling city using items scattered around to help you overcome obstacles such as the like foreground and building site.

The higher you go the higher your score, so look out for items that will speed up your bike like the turbo charger and keep an eye on the dock.

You will need skill in controlling the accelerator and gear changes to achieve a good score, especially in the drug race at the end of the game.

BIKE CONTROLS



Up: Accelerate

Down: Decelerate

Keyboard:

Left: Left

Right: Right

Accelerate: A

Decelerate: D

SPACE: Change gear

ACTION



3-D BREAKOUT

It's a 3-Dimensional version of the old game of Breakout with the wall being in the distance and the ball appearing moving in and out of the screen. You simply have to tilt the ball back towards the wall with a joystick controlled bar (in port 2) to knock the wall down and score points.

The game play differs from the original in two ways. Firstly if higher scores the bar does not reduce in size as it makes the game practically unpredictable; and secondly when the ball is hit through a gap in the wall it does not bounce back and goes behind the wall so this mode is far to easy to play but breaks back through the wall at random.

The game gradually speeds up as you score more points until it is played at twice the starting speed. The speed increases occur at 400, 800, 1200, 2000, 4000 and 10000.

Santolus space station - a known hub of subversive and criminal activity. Small wonder then that you (the main character) have been selected to go in and clean out the nest of alien war machinery. The problem is that Santolus station is a maze filled with hostile devices. Frankly, you haven't got a snowflake's chance of getting in and out alive like chin up shoulders back - you might as well try

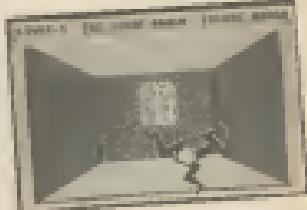
A maze of death

The game presents you with a view of the maze seen from above. Using

joysticks (in Port 2) you have to shoot your way through a number of obstacles in order to reach the alien mothership at the end of the maze. Kill this by shooting into its power ball. If you get that far... The problem is that alien defences will be trying to stop you. Your ship can absorb a certain amount of punishment, as it is composed of three modules, but as more and more of your ship modules are destroyed your laser's range and rate of fire will decrease. You have

three lives altogether, giving you the ability to absorb nine hits. The bar below your present score shows your current laser power. This can be replenished by shooting up a laser with S1 on it.

If you get that far... The problem is that alien defences will



SANTOLUS

three lives altogether, giving you the ability to absorb nine hits.

The bar below your present score shows your current laser power. This can be replenished by shooting up a laser with S1 on it.

A number of objects can be collected for extra points and to replenish your strength. To pick these up just go over them. They are:

C. Colour bomb. Collect this for extra points.

Key. You may need this to open doors.

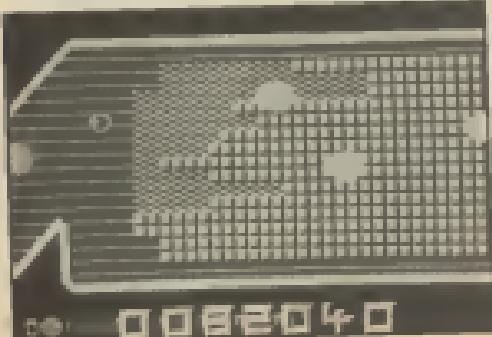
S. Shooting this will replenish your laser shield.

SR. Collecting this gives you back one ship module.

F. Colliding with this will show your ship up, making you more vulnerable.

Lots of objects will simply destroy your ship on contact. Some of these can be dispensed using your laser.

To pause the game press P/S1/D1, and to resume use the left arrow key or the top left of the keyboard.



Commodore Disk User is a monthly magazine tailored specifically for C64 and C128 Disk Users. At £2.75 per month it offers the best in all round value for money. Not only do you get an informative and lively magazine, you also get a free disk with each issue. You can purchase your copy on the third Friday of each month.

To whet your appetite, the March issue has the following programs on the disk:

Rogue - Be the 'Guardian' and Defender of your people.

Surround - Reverse your opponent's pieces and win the game.

Geek Fonts - C64 users take heart, some extra fonts for you.

Screen Slide - Create your own impressive vertical slides.

Trivia Challenge - C64's version of a popular questions and answers game.

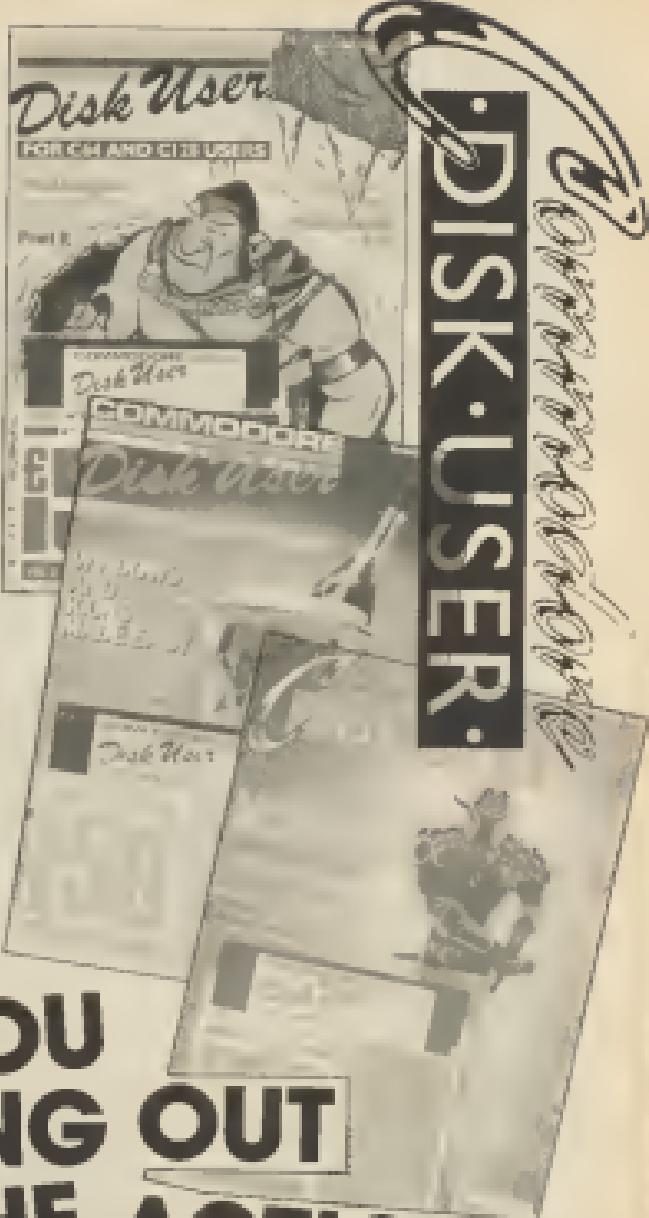
Joystick Tester - Check out your joystick for correct operation.

Screen Manipulator - Make full use of ALL the screen (including borders).

Copy Match - A younger version of match the coloured pegs.

Video Recorder Please - Keep your own history of (joined) recording sessions.

March's issue of Commodore Disk User will be on sale from Friday 20th February 1990.



ARE YOU MISSING OUT ON THE ACTION?

PLANE AND SIMPLE

"Who's longer, plastic and brightly coloured?"

Before you rummage through your knee's chest of drawers, I'll tell you. A Revell F-16A model kit (what else?).

Thanks to our sister magazine *Automodelista*, Revell has given us 3 F-16A kits to give away in our EXCLUSIVE competition to celebrate our DOCUMENT review of F-16 *Comco* Pilot.

The kit is brand spanking new so the shiny my sonny bought me for Christmas, and they have only just hit the shops. Unfortunately, due to solvent misuse, we have to demand that you buy your own glue, and only if you're going to be sensible with it (batch no. Coco-Cola).

All you have to do is supply the common information for the following three details:

- 1 F-16
- 2 F-28
- 3 F-14

Write your answers on the back of a postcard (or sealed envelope) and send them by March 31st to:

Build It Yourself Compo

TC

Argon House
Boundary Way
Hemel Hempstead
HP2 7ST

Normal Compo rules apply



THE DREAM TEAM

Meet the lots who supplied the info this month!



Rik Henderson - Deputy Editor & Freelance Cosmonaut

Rik's hobbies include opening beer cans with his head, screaming in the bath and annoying his mates with his practical jokes. He has gone down in the annals of time for his stunning portrayal of a pair of windscreen wipers in a school production of "The Wheels on the Bus".

Adrian Pumphrey - Games Editor & Part-time Zoo Attaction

Adrian is a hulking figure of a man best known for his curly moust and quiet manner. His most experienced in life involve a sheep, the Editor of a well-known satirical magazine and the (now defunct) tour of his probably best not to repeat the gory details. He has a wonderful personality and the names that he gives to his friends are completely unfounded.



Adrian Pumphrey's Top Sheep Name

Unimpressive

Ashley Cotter-Colins - Games Assistant & Fish Oscillator

Also Eugene ComonY pants, Ashley is a recent addition to the YC. Memoryless Mental Hospital. He lives



for a joystick, but usually only has man-eating pimpmobiles with turned down by the competition Pro Games are his hobby and coffee at his work. (nobody has a better relationship with the coffee machine.)

Gordon Hamlett - Contributor & One Man Barber Shop Quartet



Gordon is a long serving member of the Duck-Billed Platypus Lodge. In his lifetime he has scaled many mtns in Peterborough, climbed enormous amounts of steps (20-40) and laughed in the face of the barmen when told to drink up (all frightening experiences).

The Team's top ten PR Girls

Lindsey Manderson - Electronic Arts
Danielle Woodward - US Gold
Beverly Gordon - Audiogames
Amanda Barry - Lynne Francis (PR for Activision, etc.)

Heidi Singh - Accolade
Lesley Walker - Virgin Mastertronic
Pam Griffith - Ocean
Clare Ridgeway - Domark
Monica Rosewell - Entertainment International
Simon Hawkey - Domington Hawkey
OPR for Rainbow Art, etc.)

The Team's top five games of the month

Resogude
F-1 86 Formula 1
John Madden Football
Sonic
Don Dose III



The Toys for the Boys (the top tribes of the month)

The Toolkit subbing ring - Domark
The Electronic Arts Survivalists & Paper Rockets - Electronic Arts

Rik Henderson's Top Ten Comics

Antarctic Asylum - DC
Deadline

Mr. Justice (a surprise?)

Junior League America - DC

Justice League Europe - DC

The Biga Man - Far West Press

Lone Wolf Rockets - Panopticon

Boy of the Boxes - (this is not the

one)

The Dark Knight Returns - DC

Toboo - Spidergraphics



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It has a Elite's offering to the Christmas compilation market. Thrill Time consists of *Arnold*, *Rocky*, *Conn*

Supplier: ELITE

Price: £9.99 (Cass) £14.99 (Disk)

Bomberjaws, Submarine and Frank Bruno's World Championship Boxing. Obviously the emphasis on the package is value for money, but will it be 'Thrill Time' on Christmas morning, or will 'The Sound Of Music' be an enjoyable alternative?

For those of you who can't remember it,

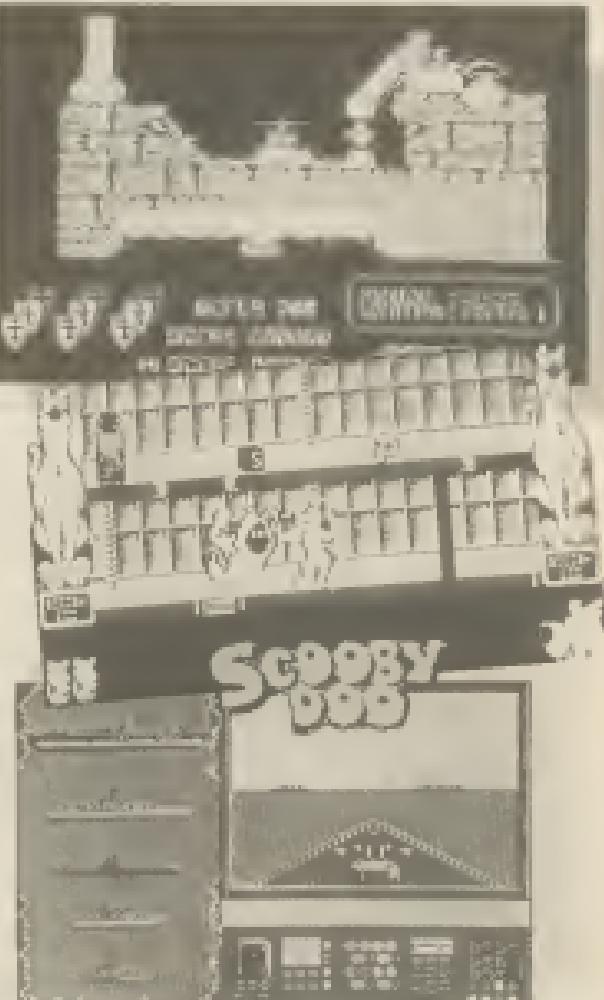
Arnold was an American TV series. In it a billion dollar helicopter was stolen from the US Government. Much to their embarrassment it would show up and solve top secret missions, then it would fly off into the sunset. It had all the features that you'd spend a billion dollars on if you were building the ultimate chopper.

Anyway, the time several scientists have been kidnapped. They are held in an underground base, and as the top pilot controllable you've got the job. Piloting *Arnold* is hard enough without lasers, security systems and machine guns everywhere. This is of course exactly what you're up against, you can fly around, around and below, or various hazards with your guns. There are five scientists in all, and each is more difficult to find than the last.

This game is a smoky too hard. The helicopter is very difficult to control with any degree of accuracy. As you've only got one life, the game rewards for too often Dotted.

Scooby-Doo finds our food-loving chum in a bit of a fix. The rest of the gang have been kidnapped and are being

THRILL TIME (GOLD 2)



held in a creepy old castle. Despite being a coward at heart, Scooby decides to go in and rescue them. Our hero has to jump over the hazards in the castle while avoiding the trapdoors.

They take the form of Scary Ghost, Gassy Ghoul, and Ghouly Devil. Scooby can punch the baddies on the nose. Even so, Scooby might find it all too much when it's not for the Scooby shoots. These are scattered around the castle at random and give Scooby an extra life.

Scooby Doo is dated and it shows. The graphics, while large, are clumsy and lacklustre. Punching ghosts on the nose is okay for a few minutes but it soon gets tiresome. Scooby can quickly lose lives because the ghosts sometimes take very suddenly.

Bottership is the classic game of seek and destroy. It is usually played by two players. However, there is a one player versus the computer and a league option. Each player has his own water space. He places his ships secretly and then the players take it in turns to shoot randomly. The winner is the person who sinks their opponent's ships.

This game appears more polished than the other castle companion. The graphics are interesting as well as functional and the shooting phase is nice occasion. The game is one that you'll either love or hate. This is a game that the whole family can enjoy and I recommend it.

In *Sabotour*, you are a man with a mission. Highly trained in both armed and unarmed combat, you have to retrieve a disk. This contains the names of Rebel leaders and is, of course, Top Secret. Not surprisingly, it is well-defended, held in a top security establishment and protected by guards, dogs

and security devices.

You start by landing on the jetty in an inflexible dinghy. Throughout the complex there are various weapons to help your tools. These include shuriken, grenades, knives and bricks. You have to find the disk and meet the helicopter on the roof so there's no time to spare.

This is another game that shows its age. The graphics are instant and the controls are fiddly. It's hard to pick up items and climb ladders. Although the game is hard to finish, it really isn't worth trying.

Finally, *Frank Bruno* lets you play the part of your favourite heavyweight hero. You must guide him through his bid for the world title. He must fight eight opponents from all around the world. Each one has a different graphic and fighting style. And they have a dirty trick up their sleeves. Ping Long does a flying kick and Andro Puncherday does a headbump.

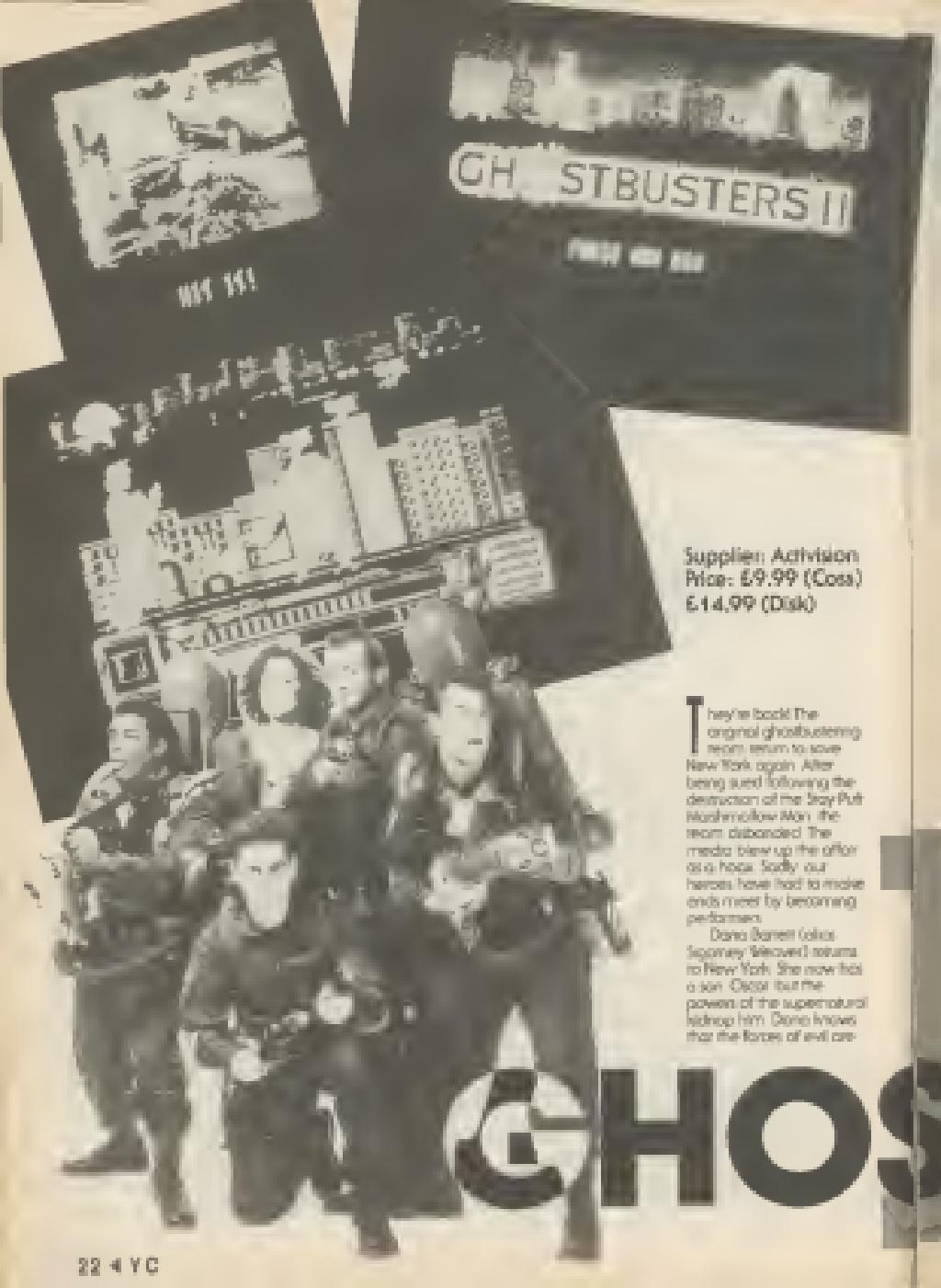
But our Frank is not going to stand for any of that filth. As he punishes his opponents his punchometer increases. When it becomes maximum he can unleash a dynamite punch. Unfortunately if Frank gets hit then the punchometer decreases. Once Frank defeats an opponent then he gets a code and you have to load in the next boxer.

Frank Bruno the game, is about as current as he bid for the World Championship today. The graphics are extremely bland and the game itself is frustrating. Control is achieved using both keys and joysticks. There's still a lot of game here for those who like a challenge. I was put off though.

Overall the package is far too dated. There are many better compilations available on the market. ACC.



50%



GH. STBUSTERS II

Play it big

Supplier Activation
Price: \$9.99 (Cass)
£14.99 (Disk)

They've lost the original ghostbusting team, seem to have New York again. After being sued following the demolition of the Stay Puft Marshmallow Man, the team disbanded. The media blew up the affair as a hoax. Sadly, our heroes have had to make ends meet by becoming performers.

Dana (Karen Black) (Sugary) MacKenzie returns to New York. She now has a son, Otto, and the powers of the supernatural kidnap him. Dana knows that the forces of evil can-

GHOS

back. She also knows what it's doin' about it. What you gonna call?

Ghostbusters of course! The real gang of four are back and fighting it in New York is in play! From the evil spirits, to the phantoms of all shapes and forms! The game itself is in three parts and the first sub-game sets you the task of collecting a sample of slime. To do this a team member needs to be lowered down a shaft by wrench as the way he encounters slimy, ghost-watching blobs and huge hands.

Luckily, like every good boy about the ghostbuster is well prepared, as he has a choice of three weapons or his disposal. The usual proton beams, an energy shield, and a PKE bomb. The lasers can shoot most of the ghosts, and the bomb destroys the watch ectos and flying blobs easily. As you swing from side to side you have to pick up the three pieces of the globo scoop. These and replacement weapons are on ledges on the sides. Picking these up is the hardest part of the

section, but once you've done this it's onto Broadway.

Now the team have to reach the art museum and to get there before the new year they've animated the Statue of Liberty! You have to protect it from the flying spuds, slimies and ghost wrench but a mere fireball. The shoots missiles or the ghosts who can hit him into drops of slime. Your loyal group of men can then run out to pick it up. The slime then adds to your energy which is required when hit.

The section of the game is a tough to complete with hordes of ghosts swooping into the cross. These are all well drawn and animated. Control of the fireball is simple and effective.

The final section of the game is at the museum. You have to rescue Oscar and destroy something called 'Mega the



Cooper! You start by shooting in them the lot! It's another shooting section, and a also hard to play.

Ghostbusters II is fairly well programmed. I liked the operating sequences which included digitized graphics from the film. The ghost graphics were the best (and most convincing). Unfortunately the game will fall down on its lasting interest because the challenge is not insatiable. Having said

that, it is fun for a while. A score of some kind would have added interest. As it stands, the only incentive to play is to complete it and not too many people will find this difficult. One for kids only. ACC

73%

STBUSTERS

CHASE H.Q.

Supplier: OCEAN
Price: £9.99 (Tape)

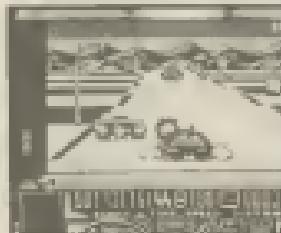
I seem to find crime is playing more often these days because the bad guys to be seen with are driving Ferraris, Lamborghinis and Lotus. This would make catching them impossible for you if you had the mall police cruiser or Panda car, so in Chase H.Q. the law enforcers are given a Turbo charged Porsche 928 instead.

As Chase H.Q. runs every hour, FULL CHASE is a command. This gets the bad guy to be forced off the road in the James Bond style. The difficulty of the race varies according to the level but then who said that being a speed cop was going to be easy?

Whilst chasing the criminal you have to negotiate traffic in the road signs and the other road users (who usually obey the speed limit) and all against the clock. You are given sixty seconds to track him down. Catching him in other cars or roadside obstacles causes a catastrophic loss of speed (and time). Taking a wrong turn in the road more or less rules your chances of catching him as well.

If you finally catch up with the badgie, you are given a further sixty seconds to run him off the road. Is it basic that your 'badie' comes in highly Government funded being who they are. In this is limited to three per game. Once arrested, you can release the badie of over 3000mph which gives you a definite edge. You

69%



then have to collide forcibly with the back of the fugitive driver's car. Each time you do this successfully a hit is recorded. A gauge records the number of hits before submission. Once the criminal submits, Money or in fact then gives you details of the next mission.

As a game, Chase H.Q. breaks very little new ground. The idea of running a car off the road is not new - now is the perspective view from above and behind your car. The car responds fairly well to speed and turns so steering around a corner at 300mph is a bad idea. The graphics work fairly well with a good impression of an uneven road created. The impression of speed is not so good, and the whole game seems to deteriorate in slow motion. The police play well enough, but the fugitive is little too easy despite the time limit.

There is a strange mix of the two popular computer game soundtracks during the game. There is no high



score table, but there is a high score recorded.

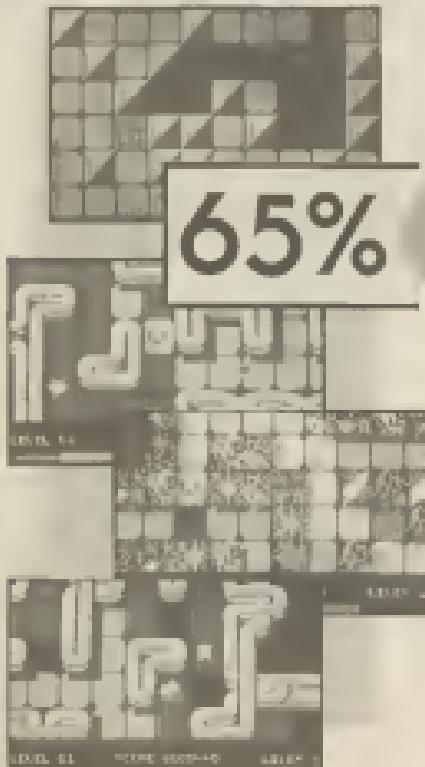
Running the car off is the easiest part of the game, but once arrested you'll have trouble completing the game. At the end you are given a message. Get away. Get away. Get away. Which is either or least confusing.

And there is nothing particularly wrong with Chase H.Q. just a desire to look the game it needs to fit in above the glut of driving games on the market. And with only five levels, you tend to get a bit bored.

ACC



Supplier: Hewson
Price: £9.99 (Case) £14.99 (Disk)



Occasionally Rippo encounters items floating around the maze. These give him temporary immunity to the monsters and in some cases another life. Should Rippo turn all the squares the right colour he has to find the portal. This is a flashing square which transports him to the next maze.

The graphics are represented from above in isometric perspective. The borders of the maze are varied according to the level. Each is colourful and well drawn. Rippo himself is a nicely drawn character, sharp and forced blue. The monsters in the maze vary from excellently to poorly drawn and animated. Some are large and colourful, others are small and blurry. They seem to move randomly about the maze but it's easy to be napped by them.

The game is very playable and fairly addictive. It has got enough frustration to keep you playing rather than annoying you. Should you progress through a level there is a restart option which functions well in only one game. The levels are fairly rough, with each one taking up several screens. These are flip-screen rather than scrolling.

Having said that I feel that Hewson have taken a few steps back with *Maze Mania*. It is a cross between *Hamsteria* and *Q*bert* (remember that?). Maze games are the definition of unoriginality and this one is no exception. Rippo has the cutest potential to be a cult figure, but I doubt that the game will be successful enough to warrant a sequel. The truth is that these are far too many games of this type available already. Many of them are better than this one too. Unless you have money to burn or you are a real fan of maze games then try before you buy.

ADD

Space Rogue

Price: £14.99 Disk
Supplier: Origin

With mechs in space.

You don't know what you have done to upset the Captain, but he always seems to pick on you when there is a dirty job in the offing. Here you are in deep space looking forward to a decent bit of leave when the bridge reports an apparently abandoned spaceship just sitting there in the middle of nowhere with no apparent signs of life.

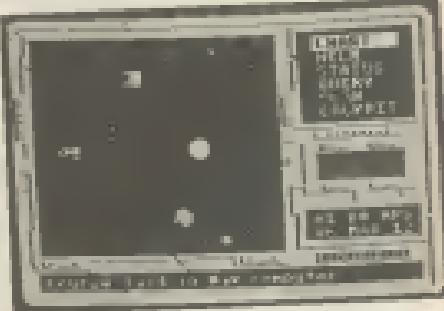
Reluctantly, it's me again that has to go and investigate. You reach the ship and confirm that there is no-one aboard. You have visions of your entire leave being spent writing reports that nobody will ever read and are busy cursing like the universe and everything when a Monchi raiding ship screams in from nowhere and blows your home for the last six months out of

the closest star system.



As Andi is experienced with no ship?

Rebel Alliance
Resistance
Galaxy
Galaxy
Galaxy



Roaming along on the coast of a star.



the galaxy. You avert a senior fire but the Monchi appear to have also logged this little craft as being devoid of any interest whatsoever and one goes just as quickly as they come. Maybe it's your lucky day after all.

The machine that you have just inherited is a brand new Sunseeker. Even the instruction manual is still on the dashboard although someone has scrawled a few cynical comments about some of the more fanciful sounding claims. Now, does not appear to be the moment to sit and think about what the ship is doing light years from anywhere. Instead you call up the navigation screen, select a friendly base and let the autopilot do the rest of the work as you try to figure out the various controls of your new toy.

Space Rogue from Origin is a sort of Rive with a few elements of role playing factored in for added interest. You can follow the path of roader pirate or bounty hunter or a combination but all three paths will eventually lead to another much important quest: about which you know absolutely nothing. Talking to people gives you the odd clue about your final destiny. Nothing major you understand! just a little bit of intergalactic intrigue, a few assassination attempts and the fate of billions of people in your hand.

How you choose to behave effects what happens to you as the game progresses. Your imperial masters out of the sky will fly by and you might earn yourself a lot of money and space-cred but don't be surprised if you suddenly find a pece on your head. You can please all of the people all of the time. Above all though, talk to people. Knowledge is power even



▲ Space - the place before the stars

Space Rogue menu ▲

If you don't always do the right thing when you possess it?

Your space ship comes equipped with all mod cons but that doesn't mean that you can't add on a few optional extras such as a nuclear nappy, nova missiles, purity for self defence, you understand! Many of the ship's functions are automatically controlled but you can choose to override them should you decide that is in your best interest. For instance if the enemy is gammaing your target acquisition computer, your missiles will probably go well wide of their mark. So turn off your on board stats or the on computer and use good old hand to eye coordination instead.

There are plenty of other features in the game to get to grips with

such as choosing whether to use Newtonian or Gauss flight modes.

Each has their advantages and disadvantages and both are likely to prove equally frustrating to the beginner learning to drive them; there are the worm holes, huge tunnels in space allowing you to continents to be travelled in somewhat less than the usual time, or hours about a game of *Heads*? An arcade game with a prize at the end - if you are any good.

Documentation is far

from

class with an owners guide

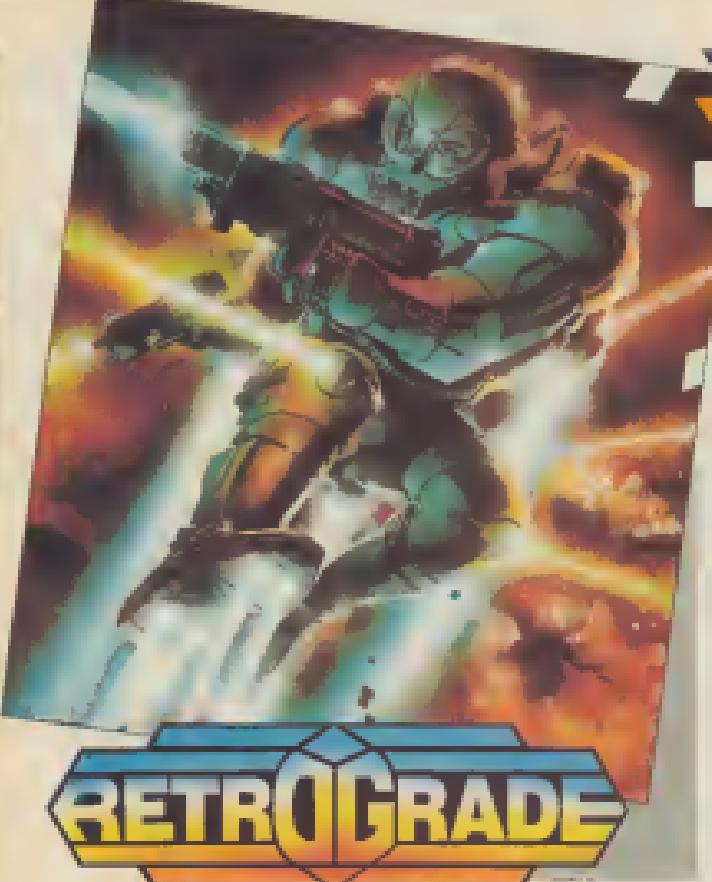
to their new machine-star

ships. Short story on! See our model of two of the spaceships included.

There is plenty to see and do in Space Rogue but all the action happens very slowly. This is not so much due to the game itself but the lack of disk swapping and there is a lot of it - seems to rule for ever. Certainly I found myself wishing that the whole thing would speed up - there was too long a gap between anything interesting happening. There is a lot of game here if you just have the patience to dig it out.

OH





getting Ara that much more simple. Also for sale are weapons that can be strapped to your fin. This fin weapon is used RoboCop style to punch out the alien when you are walking along the planet's surface.

Collecting with aliens drains the energy from your shield. You start with five shields, one a bar if the energy reaches zero. Helpfully an extra shield is awarded with every 20,000 points. As well as this an alien occasionally drops a 'POW' symbol. If collected, you have a bonus shield which cannot be replenished but you do not lose a life if it is depleted.

It would be nice if life were as simple as that. But you still have a whole Universe to save, not just one planet. On each planet there are several rescue ducts. As you punch robots on the ground occasionally one drops a planet blaster. Once primed, it can be coaxed down the shaft and planted. This stops the destruction of the planet. Once all of the ducts have been primed then the planet is destroyed. The motors that you control merely fly around the planet floating, you must combine it with a lot of the RoboCop too.

Your activity has not gone unnoticed. Predictably the evil owner of the planet is none too pleased or it's destruction. This is where the trouble really starts. It appears to

RETROGRADE



Supplier: THALAMUS

Price: £12.99 (Disk)
£9.99 (Cass)

chosen to stop this corner. Guess what... this means blowing them to smathermats with your blaster!

This is the setting to Retrograde the closest shoot'em up from Thompson. As usual it's one man against the rest of the universe. Fortunately you have an answer to the latest dastardly bid to overthrow Humanity! You have a highly destructive laser pack. When the

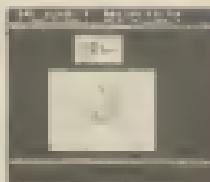
game begins you have a small bullet type laser beam. This makes destroying the aliens quite hard work as they take several hits to kill. Luckily when that they turn into Ara. Ara is the local currency and comes in 5, 10 or 20 Ara sizes.

Once you have collected lots of Ara (you can go to the shop to buy various "power ups" for your weapon including mega shot, diagonal shot, super shot and triples) these all make blowing the aliens that little bit easier. In turn this makes

A competition between seven great evils in the Universe is underway to see who can invade the most planets. For unreasonably a few people are a little unhappy about this, and as a person who votes with his blaster you have been



95%



destroy you itself in the form of a gigantic monster I think I've seen this before somewhere.

The evil monster resembles a cross between an octopus and a shudder! You appear in deep space behind it. Using just your puntal weapons it must be destroyed in order for you to progress. It is heavily armed, launching missiles and shooting laser beams at you. As you destroy it pieces break off and it gets weaker. Kill it and you can progress to the next planet. There are seven in all, each one harder than the last. Later planets feature different spaces and landscapes as well as more dust. The end of level being become more and more difficult to destroy bigger and more heavily armed.

A lot of creativity and imagination has gone into the production of *Retrograde*. Thalamus have not only concentrated on the graphics nor merely the gameplay. The result is a well balanced game which uses the Commodore 64 to its maximum potential. The graphics are colourful and well animated with smooth scrolling. Despite the number of spaces-



which move around on screen, neither the speed nor the smoothness suffer to a great extent.

There are many clever touches in *Retrograde*. As the game loads you get a choice of seven different tunes. These vary from slow melodies to tuneful rhythms

CAPT1
CAPT2
CAPT3
CAPT4
CAPT5
CAPT6
CAPT7
CAPT8

ABILITY
WEAPONS
ARMOUR

SHIELD
ARMOUR
WEAPONS
SHIELD



SHIELD
ARMOUR
WEAPONS
SHIELD

WEAPONS later to buy
newer ones.

Having said that *Retrograde* is not particularly original. Civilization games feature the idea of upgradable weapons and end of level monsters. The central character is similar to that use in many other games. However, there is no star on a game which uses these elements well and this one does.

Retrograde is a masterpiece of programming. It has addictive qualities, is extremely playable and looks and sounds impressive. If you like blasting games then I cannot recommend it highly enough. Buy it now.

TOOBIN

56%

Supplier: DOMARK
Price: £14.99 (Disk)
£9.99 (Cass)



If you've ever fanned' down some of the most dangerous rapids in the world, you were scared off by the risks involved, perhaps you'd rather try it in a rubber suit? That's the challenge that *Toobin* offers you in the on-cassette conversion from Domark.

As either Bill or Jon you must paddle down rivers and rapids. Your tube does not puncture or leak, you just bounce off boulders at the top of the river. You have to negotiate your way to the party at the other end. As if this were not dangerous enough, there are many added dangers along the way. These include fly fishermen, water snakes, a hungry alligator and sub-aqua sharks! All of these hazards puncture your tube and lose you a life.

On top of all these dangers, there are some wild party-goers along the river banks. These will try everything in their power to stop Bill and Jon from obtaining their goal. Fortunately, you are not defenceless. Beer cans can be collected en route which you can throw at the various brawlers which line the river bank, stunning them for long enough for you to escape past them. There are also rapids which push you quickly down the vertically scrolling screen and gates which award bonus points if successfully negotiated.

Propulsion is achieved in the time-honoured fashion of frantically

paddling with your hands either backwards or forwards, and rotating left or right with your feet. This is a frustrating mode of control, which is very easy to misjudge.

This would be all very well but the game is unevenly let down by its graphics. The *Toobin* 16F Grid Jet look like water-bombers and some of the riverside enemies are entirely indistinguishable from the background. The ones you can see include several harpooning Spinheads and the fly fishermen remain disguised. Logjams. Some of the objects you collect look like beds of rocks, oranges and sharkfin.

Some of the hazards are almost impossible to avoid, as the spelling often hides them until you're on top of them. Add to this the dodgy control system which often gets you stuck on a gate and beaten by the alligator, and you'll soon be headbutting the keyboard in frustration.

I remember seeing the game in the arcade and its attraction was its colourful graphics. Domark have unfortunately failed to convert them with any degree of accuracy, and so the game loses its 'use' appeal. Apparently Bill and Jon are in search of the most outrageous party they can find. Six old-age pensioners chirling, lemming-like and dancing to the *Body Song* would doubtless be more entrancing than this one effort.

There is a two-player option for this brawler, but I doubt if anyone would dare show this to their friends for sake of losing them. This has the feel to me of an on-cassette conversion which has been refined to coincide with other versions. There is no excuse for this. Avoid this game.

Dan Dare

W here the evil Melton lurks you can't find the intergalactic hero Dan Dare. In this the third computerized confrontation Dan must escape from the Melton's clutches. Caught while sleeping Dan finds himself inside in the Melton's hideously decorated. His only hope of escape is via a lone fighter he has discovered the only problem is its lack of fuel so Dan sets forth jet pack on both gun in hand ready for all space borne misadventures the Melton may pose to throw at him.

Dan starts his adventure in the storage areas but even here the hostile lurks. After blasting a few mutations (they vanish) until they meet with the Melton's surgeon) with his portable mutation blaster he comes face to face with his adversary. Dan leaps at the chance to destroy his age-old adversary but it is not to be. After exchanging plasma bolts the Melton heads for sunnier climes with his personal teleporter. However all is not lost as he leaves behind a pass for the public teleporter before dashing off to adventures new in a quick scan of the surroundings reveal two computer terminals. One supplies fuel for the jet pack but the other is a far more versatile machine. At the terminal Dan can purchase

82%

extra weaponry in the form of bouncing bombs, smart bombs and even ammunition for his blaster. It is also possible to buy extra lives here if you have the cash.

Using the teleporter brings about its own hazards. As Dan walks through the ether he must be guided through a tunnel of squares which come at him. Failure to correctly navigate a square results in damage which in turn can lead to an early demise. If you die during teleportation your body is returned to the starting teleport terminal before you resume with another life.

The second level is slightly larger and contains even more mutants. Once again you find the Melton and slug it out. Now you have your third pass you can choose your destination. Here lies the strategy element of the game; you can risk all by assaulting the next level or you can play it safe and return to the stores for a few more lives and some extra fire-power. After a few levels you have enough fuel to escape so with all hope you return to the stores, access the terminal and blast off into, no not the wilds of space, but the blast door. After



you have paid the price for the power you have gained. The Melton is a very mean adversary. If the Melton is still around you can always buy a few more lives and then blast off again.

Industries of the Galaxy is indeed a well thought out game with a good computer generated graphics. It is also a very interesting game. If the Melton is still around you can always buy a few more lives and then blast off again.



F-16 COMBAT PILOT

Digital Integration have a long-founded reputation for producing state-of-the-art simulations. F-16 Combat Pilot is the latest of these. As expected, it sets the standards that all other flight sims will be judged by.

You have a choice of either training, Gladiators or a fully fledged mission. These include Tankbuster, Dogfighting and Scramble. You can select operation to get up in the air straight away. This puts you at the end of the runway with a mixture of weapons.

Start open the throttle and pull back on the stick. The computer greets you with a readout of the speed, altitude and the speed increases. The screen update is smooth and fast with hardly any flicker. Once in the air there are counters, displays to keep track on. Nothing is automatic, you even have to raise the undercarriage. There are displays for altitude, airspeed and pitch. Also shown are current missiles, several radar and fuel levels.

The emphasis is more definitely on simulation not game. You have to have a good head for technical details or you won't get very far. Once because it's a good idea to fly around for a while. This helps you to get the feel of the craft. Do a few risky swoops, fire a few missiles

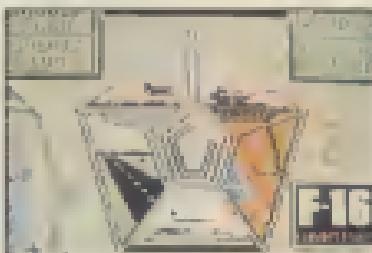
— who said that simulations can't?

Of course there is a more serious side to the game. There are five in-depth missions. Before starting one you have to

Supply: Digital Integration
Price: £9.99 (Cass) £14.99 (Disk)

equip your plane from scratch. You can select various missiles and other add-ons to your heart's content. Clearly different missiles will be used for different missions. For the scramble mission you'll need air-to-air missiles, for Tankbuster air-to-ground and better. Add-ons include flares and extra fuel tanks.

When equipped you then have to fly your way out of the hangar. Even this comparatively simple operation is certainly not easy. It requires a very delicate touch on the controls. Indeed if you are to avoid crashing. When you've eventually found



the runway open in take-off time. This should be now be a routine operation.

Book in the air, and HQ will begin to broadcast information to you. This will be relevant to the mission and may be as simple as the position of the next target. Alternatively it could be a battle stations alert! There are also five different radar type displays. These show ground targets, maps and other vital information.

Depending on your mission you may then have to fly to a target to strike or break out on enemy plane. You can enable your combat computer once engaged. This helps you to plan your bombing strategy. You can look a missile on your target or break away with your guns.

Of course the enemy have also put out their best pilots. These are all intent on sending you to an early stone funeral. They know all of the tricks in the book and will use them mercilessly. Fortunately for all you budding top gun-sas there you get a copy of the book.

This is the flight manual. It is essentially the ABC of how to fly an F-16. Included in this hollowed tomb is a detailed breakdown of the various types of missile. This is very useful as it helps to plan your coming of the plane. There are sections detailing taking off and landing, taking and combat procedures. These are especially useful and are worth practising. Even if you can't perform a reverse climb loop with ease it will impress your friends if you say you can!

The book is well produced and written. If you don't read it before taking off it's like taking a plug without knowing which way is live. Certainly the missions can't be harder without the essential

88%

background knowledge
The missions can all be altered to suit your skill level. If you have the inclination you can litter the map with tanks but don't expect to complete the mission easily.

The plane isn't all combat-aware about how you write it off! Whether

you scrap the top of the control tower or take a missile in the backside the screen shatters. All that hard work down the drain. Luckily you can start off over again on a different mission.

F-16 Combat Pilot is a milestone in Commodore programming. Despite the

program's huge size and complexity the speed does not suffer. There are thirty-three controls including the more obscure ejector seat, fuel and weapons dump and computer. Crumpling all of these into the 64 bytes remains the gameplay and speed is a true achievement. Digital Integration should be proud of the effort when they could so easily have bogged out a conversion of other do ACC.

4. White Inundated after landing

5. Aim for up up

6. Fire is need, a need for speed!



LEISURE GENIUS

'Classics'

Supplier: Virgin/Mashtronic

Price: £19.99 Disk, Tape

Nothing brings the family together on those dull winter evenings better than a good old fashioned board game. The problem lies in those dull winter evenings spent alone. There are two solutions to this problem: one is to become a psychopath and develop a few extra personalities and the other is to buy the Leisure Genius 3 Pack from Virgin/Mashtronic.

Three board games are presented in their pixelated splendour for your delectation: Cluedo, Scrabble-De-Lux and Monopoly. All three games have previously been reviewed but this is the first time that they have been presented in a single package and for me the price of £19.99.

The first game to fall under my scrutiny is Cluedo. The essence of the original board game has been preserved with a few minor additions as only a computer can do it. When the characters appear ready for their spin around the board a little glint is played which corresponds to the current character.

All of the participating characters can be under either human or computer control. It is even possible to select the intelligence

level of each computer controlled character. A number of options are presented to the player each turn. It is possible to make the final accusation a simple suggestion or review the cards you hold. There is also a notes option which displays the notes the computer automatically makes for you character as the game progresses.

The graphical representation of the board requires two minds

of the screen with the remaining third displaying the current character and a list of options. The only disadvantage of this game occurs when more than one human player is playing. When you view your notes or cards you must cover a portion of the screen so the other players do not gain an unfair advantage when they see your cards.

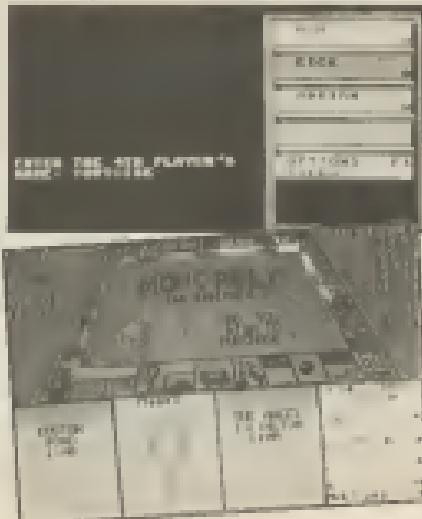
Monopoly is a classic board game and the is a three-dimensional

gameplay in the computer version is identical to that of the board version. Once again there is the problem of covering part of the screen to view your cards but again from that this is a fun concession. For the single or limited group of players it is possible to have a number of computer controlled characters each with a user defined IQ.

The race around the board holds the familiar thrills as the mad dash for the expensive properties begins. One advantage of the computer version is that you will lose none of the cards and the computer handles all of the banking functions, a blow to those of us fond of hand players.

The problem with playing only against computer controlled characters is that you cannot see them sweat as the dice roll and they approach your hotels. At least you can set the computer characters to the lower level and give them a severe thrashing.

The final game in this selection is Scrabble-De-Lux. This is by far the easiest and most playable of the three games. Although you can see each other's letters this does not unduly disrupt the



game. There are the usual options to have a number of computer controlled players with an IQ of your choice but there are also several features which add significantly to the game.

The computer version of the game neatly eliminates those obscure two-letter words by checking every cognate in its built-in dictionary. Those words it does not recognise it queries but the human player still overrules this and thus cheats. For those players that find it hard to string two sentiments together a help option is available. When activated this option finds the best possible use for the letters you hold. A tool full of tips can often bring inspiration so no help the struggling player the tiles can be randomly jiggled in order to bring forth that elusive combination. Further options allow the player to place a limit upon the timing, time and scores, charts showing tile and board values.

This is one-computer version that plays equally well despite the number of players and if a player drops out the computer can always take over.

One fun aspect of all these games is the ability to switch to a completely computer-controlled game at any time. If the outcome cannot be waited for make every difference to computer controlled character set the game speed to maximum and go make a cup of tea.

As a package this collection represents excellent value. Although each of the games support a number of human opponents only Scrabble De Luxe really works with more than one human player. This is simply a solitary social event of the year.

AP





TEST DRIVE?



LAYOUT		ACCELERATION	
Front wheel drive	4WD	0-60 mph	4.5 sec
0-100 mph	11.5 sec	0-120 mph	17.5 sec
0-140 mph	22 sec	0-160 mph	28 sec
0-180 mph	33 sec	0-200 mph	42 sec



Supplier: Accolade

Price: £9.99 (Cass) £14.99 (Disk)

Test Drive II: The Duel is the sequel to Accolade's very successful driving simulator. While the first game was more of a simulation, The Duel is much more of a race game. However this does not mean that the quality of the driving has suffered. It's just that the emphasis is more on fun in

this version

Holding a grey Porsche has made you friends and enemies. One of these drives a red Lamborghini and has challenged you to a race. Not willing to lose credibility you turn to the challenge.

On loading you are given several options. Both cars are displayed with a

detailed description of each besides. Here you can choose which car to drive. Each has its pros and cons but they're roughly equal in performance. You can choose to take on the Duel straight away, or either practice or race against the clock. As with any pseudo racing game it's worth a practice before jumping in at the deep end.

The clock is a fairly head game which should set you up for the main challenge. This starts with

you setting in front of your opponent. You can see him in your rear view mirror. He's obviously confident enough to give you a head start! Along the road (speed limit 100mph) will you encounter other drivers. These merely serve to distract you as you race. Hitting one of these makes you lose one of your five lives.

You have to refuel at the petrol stations en route. Use one and it's game over time. You complete



opponent is a mean driver and will try to knock an error from you in order to win. There are many skill levels, including a choice of manual or automatic transmission. At the higher levels the enemy becomes meaner and faster than ever. He teleports about in front of your car trying to get you to crash. The other cars are more frequent and cause more trouble for you.

It's very easy to miss a gear change or to miss a moment and lose the Duel. Understandably this leads to a distinct loss of street credibility. Of course you must outchallenge your adversary in the hope that you can beat him this time.

The Duel is a very good driving game come simulation. It's hard enough to keep control of a performance car without the added worry of a race. The graphics are updated well and smoothly and the perspective effect is successful. The game is very reminiscent of *Test Drive* and as such a nice as running car it could be.

However if you don't own *Test Drive* or would

rather be racing than on the run check out *The Duel*. It might be what you're looking for. On its own merits the game is a very good indeed, if fun to play and sufficiently difficult to keep you playing for some hours. Driving heads should check it out.

ADD



82%



CHAMBERS
of
Shakir

Shakir





GRANDSLAM

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POSTER NO.3



GHOULS AND GHOSTS

Supplier: US Gold

Price: £9.99 (Case) £14.99 (CD)

The original Ghouls and Goblins featured our Knight in shining armour. He had a quest to rescue his kidnapped lady from the clutches of evil. Well, guess who? Arthur the Knight is back. Guess what? He has to rescue the Princess Hatty from the clutches of evil. Ha-hum. You'd have thought that Arthur would have found something different to do after three years.

Still, a Knight has to do what a Knight has to do. Arthur is armed not for battle, in his suit of peasant bodily bathing armour. This disappears if he hits it. Arthur then has only his undershorts for protection. He has a silver lance (sword) with which he can slice the noobs into kebabs. As Arthur runs across the bottom layers of dampness and evil hell encounters, cheetahs. Shooting these revolts either a secret weapon or a maggot. The secret weapons range from knives to magical berries. These can far more easily destroy the noobs than the lance.

The maggots are featureless men in vampire costumes. These are deadly to the touch, but can crawl on you. This turns you into a duck for about five seconds. This can be useful if you need to avoid lots of noobs as you're far smaller. When you turn back into Arthur, your armour is replenished.

Life is not all pain sailing for Arthur. After all, there is the little matter of



A few little metal men



Ahaha, step and kick again



At the bottom like that it won't knock them away in reverse!

the noobs he has to dispatch. These vary from The Grimreaper to flying Tasmanian Devils. All of them cause damage to Arthur. Other static hazards

include collapsing floors, jaggedness and evil throwing flies. At the end of each level Arthur encounters a huge, Demonic monster. This is

75%

Never mind shooting blobs at Arthur. Should Arthur shoot him enough times with his weapon then he can progress to the next level.

The third level sees Arthur in charge of rock removal strands on a floating platform. As it rises up to shoot he is beaten by yet more noobs. Smartly, Arthur climbs out of the walls to knock them. Back around and drop blobs onto them. Ghouls snap at them with giant pairs of scissored. This level makes a nice change from the horizontally scrolling other levels.

Ghouls and Goblins is not a particularly brilliant game or all that much imagination has been put into the characters or the backgrounds. Arthur is a baddy as he was in the first game all those many ago. The monsters are not badly drawn but still aren't fantastic. It is quite difficult to shoot across the screen. Arthur tends to shoot up by mistake.

The basic Ghouls and Goblins is a playable game. It has good addictive qualities and is a nice diversion up. The extra weapons are a fun if fully ineffective addition to the game. The game has terrible music which partly makes up for its other shortcomings. My advice is to try before you buy.

ACC

Supplier: Uned Magic
Price: £9.99 (Cass) £14.99 (Disk)

If you've ever had the inclination to become world champ, then perhaps the game could be for you. Hopefully you'll make it if you don't hang yourself first. Yes, this is a frustrating game.

No one ever told that fighting your way up to the top would be easy. In fact to prove the point you have to start by breaking in

Other moves include striking (this makes the boxer hiss) and what's supposed to be dancing. On screen the boxers appear to be about to kiss their breakfast. They reach backwards and forward from the waist. Fortunately the house seems to pass when you release the control.

The graphics on this

player mode which is a fun addition. This is a great game if you like boxing

and enjoy a long term challenge.

AC

69%

THE CHAMP

the boxer. These fights are all very well organised though. There's a bell and three minute rounds. The corners can ring though, you can end up on either side of the sheet.

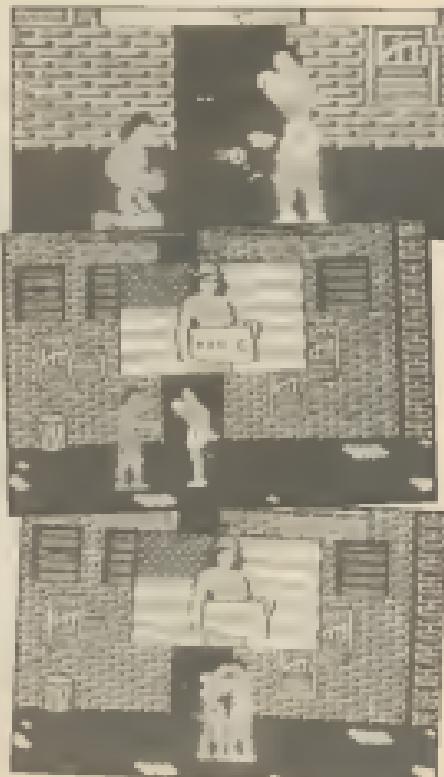
As usual in this type of game, there are a variety of moves to knock the stuffing out of your opponents. You can job hook, body punch and uppercut. Also you can throw a 'Ritter Punch'. This is a glorified uppercut which takes about a second to hit. It is also wildly inaccurate and fails to land about 90% of the time. However the computer boxer manages to land it on you about once in every three attempts. This is to say the most annoying if more than one of these little blows hits you then in a Knock Out time for you.

This seems to happen almost every game. You can decay at the later sheet boxes using a variety of moves. He then turns around and dances, aiming out of you with a couple of kicks. No time option is possible to beat the occasional fighter but then the next will take his revenge.

Section are recommend four or five examples. Publish leaves the sheet and the aliens are well down. The boxers are very chunky indeed, they look as if they're built like linebackers. They move fairly well without flickering. Blows are greeted with a solid thud and the bell rings convincingly. There's no music though.

If you're diligent (and extremely patient) you might get discovered by a professional coach. He'll see that you get no fight in the ring. However in between the sheet and the ring is the gym phase. This is an optional training phase which is a little repetitive but makes a pleasant change. Once in the ring the boxers start to get really tough. Fight on through and after a lot of suffering and pain you may get a shot at becoming the champ.

The Champ has the potential to be a really great game. However it's let down by being completely frustrating. The computer boxer often puts out a couple of deadly shots and your work is wasted. There is a two





JOHN FOOT

Supplier: Electronic Arts
Price: £14.99 (Disk)

or the uninitiated

John Madden is a fat blonde American with an intense grin who is a renowned football coach. It is he who has lent his

name (and image) to the Electronic Arts strategy simulation.

This is the best ever attempt at bringing the rough-tough world of Linemen, Quarterbacks and Referees to the home computer. It relies totally on your making the right decisions instead of arcade skills. This works perfectly, and as a result the game is very complicated.

For those of you who have never switched on Channel 4 on a Sunday evening, American Football is a little like a



“...it’s the best in the business”
cross between Rugby and
Football. Two realms of

MADDEN FOOTBALL

Between huge men try to throw, catch and carry a small leather ball into the endzone. Should they be successful then a Touchdown is the result.

reverse. Each play is intended to catch out the opposition and run the ball into the endzone. As well as a touchdown you can elect to kick a field goal.



A Football is a game for big, burly men named after kitchen implements.

This scores six points. The kicker then has a chance to score the extra point by booting the ball over the goalpost. Neal Quinn would be good or it then hit. The game is very much a physical contact sport. The teams are all kitted out in pads and helmets to avoid injury.

This sounds quite simple, but the game is also very subtle too. There are many different variations on the basic pass or running plays. These are all named including shotgun, pocket and

This scores three points but is better than losing the ball.

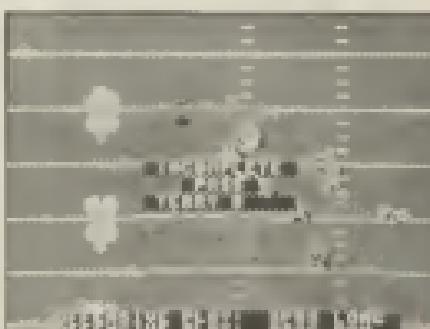
You have four attempts, to carry the ball ten yards. This is known as a first down. If it fails and the possession turns over to the other team. This also happens if the ball is dropped or it goes to an opposing player.

John Madden Football is a superb game. It has captured all of the subtle complexities of what is a very complicated and involved sport. For those of you who like an arcade type game as well as a

strategy you can assume control of the players on screen. The graphics are fairly well defined but a little blokey. This means that it is sometimes very difficult to see what's going on. However the game is one of the real sports so it's excusable of the computer version.

The packaging is very extravagant. There is a handbook, two pamphlets which indepthly detail offensive and defensive plays and a season ticket. This is a revolving card deck which contains codes to access the program and encourage play. The books are well written and concise with clear instructions and step by step guides to play.

This is not a game where you can sit down and enjoy it instantly. You have to understand the sport first. Then you have to understand the program. It works extremely well once you sort out the way it is structured. Then you'll be absolutely hooked. You won't be able to stop yourself away from the screen until you've won a few key plays. Sure to be a hit with fans of the sport.



On me, his ball was dropped. A



STREET HASSE

Supplier: Virgin Megastore
Price: £2.99

Street Hassle is an ancient game and one that passed by many without much notice. It now appears again on a budget price and looks its second-hand mumpier a lot louder this time.

Considering its name I doubt that it comes as much of a surprise that it's a tale-tell up. You see a half screen high space warning, but a golden thorng to cover you from embrolement. Your moves are legendary and your hair is the right colour of blonde to make keen fans go poesy.

The Hassle part of the tale comes from the fact that you are often disturbed by people and animals. Dogs, gothics and what looks like old grenades all rain blows upon your poor body and



you also must do the same to them (my favourite is the 'solid' headbutting technique).

A strange game. Street Hustler has many faults, glitches, and only three levels, but at its new found price it could be described as worthwhile. MM

79%



A Headbutting Game

NEUTRALIZOR

82%

Supplier:
E-I Software
Price: £2.99

Another game that makes no pretence of aiming for the budget market and comes suitably to Neutralizor. A game by E-I software, best known for its various space simulations.

It is best suited to the budget market as it is very limited but fun. It is a shoot-em-up without an awful lot of thought. A sort of cross between Defender and Lemmings (without being much like either of them).

You scroll from one side to another collecting radiation pods and blasting their questions and then it's onto the next planet. There are three planets and that's about all.



SAILING

Supplier: Virgin

Mastertronic

Price: £1.99

I can't really decide whether I liked the game or not and I think this is a problem that most will find. I don't love it, I don't hate it, in fact I'm rather numb about the whole subject.

You get a chance to build yourself a yacht and race against many other countries in a non too accurate simulation of the soft water sport of yachting.

The basic creation part is very good and the decisions you make here do have effect in the race. The race is a doddle to handle as all you have to do is press shift race and lower your sailmake. (Uncle Jones go to the corner for flagging).

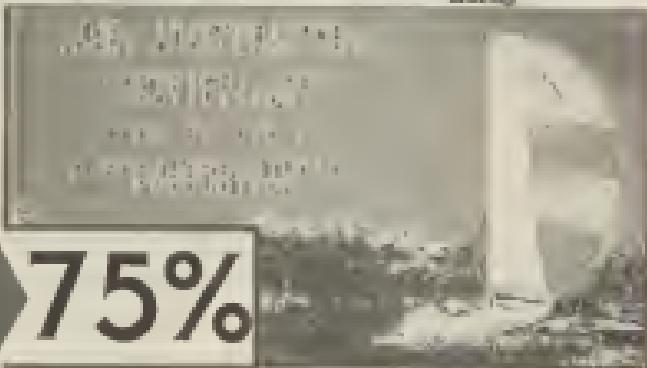
Everything about the game is neither outstanding nor rotten. A bit like Fred Stewart's voice really, it's a pleasant white going on the same time. *Verdict*: **Bad**



Good and Bad: *Uncle Jones* makes 'W'

As moves crashing, best

smashing!



75%

MOVING TARGET

Supplier: Royers

Price: £2.99

The evil drug dealer of Columbia must die and you are the man to kill him. This is only if you can stay awake long enough to bother.

Moving Target is another budget game that has been rather cut with no other intention but to make a fast buck. It is so bad that it could more milk a cow.

The game play area



69986 ADD 400 KGS TONE
STRENGTH T887 LIVES

much to the horizontal cockpit adventure of the past, and this goes some way to prove why it is so bad now. The graphics, sound and play are very substandard and although I did my my hardest to get somewhere, I was always left with the same taste in my mouth. The taste of boredom and disappointment.

Supplier: Players Price: £2.99

Finally enough the game is not based upon a large account, for as the title suggests instead it is an underwater



34%

Poor and not worthy of any price. One thing though, it is hell of a lot better than Pro Mountain Bike Simulation 94.

adventure in the tradition of Cyberoid (or not). There is very little relevance with the title or all.

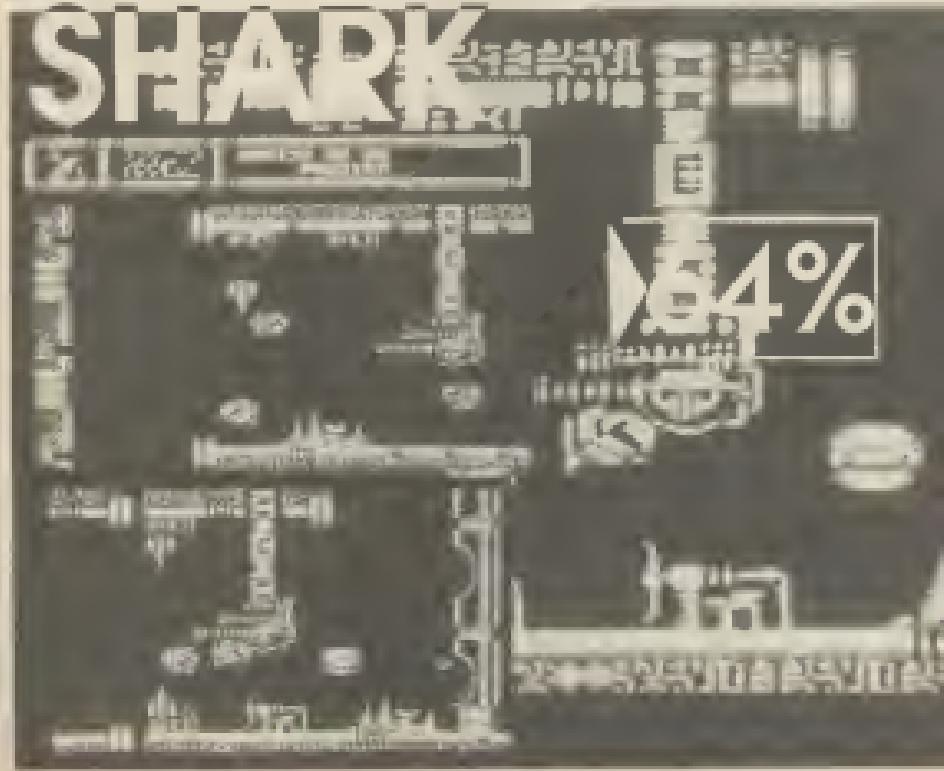
The underwater mining company Atlantic Five has been overrun (possibly by the Snake brothers (that makes sense!)), and you in

your little bubble of a craft must investigate. And this is the "Ultimate underwater combat experience" after all.

The similarities with Cyberoid (so many that I have to mention it twice) are not to be overlooked and only if you enjoyed

the original will you find this in any way interesting. Admittedly though, the graphics are better, and the game is smooth.

It's cheap, and it's not my cup of tea. More is cup of hot water. Somebody will enjoy it. MM



54%

SNARE

Price: £9.99 Tape,
£12.99 Disk
Supplier: Thalamus

Ihe Snare is a rich man's game turned into a poor man's nightmare. The rich man is long gone, but his legacy remains. Few would enter the deadly maze if it were not for the fabulously treasures it contains. So popular has this deadly game become that half the world watches from

the safety of its home as the contestants pit their wits against the Snare.

You time has come or lost. You enter the maze in a highly mobile hovercraft, the only commands being a small cannon, the ability to lower a trap behind you and, most importantly, yourself. At first the maze

confounds the mind as each nearly degree turn of your craft roasts nor you but the maze. This means that no matter how you travel and turn you always novel up the screen. The first few minutes spent in the maze result in many a crash until your brain adjusts to the novel method of navigation.

Thread your way through the walls and pits of the Snare as complicated by the patterned tiles which are scattered on the floor. Some rotate your craft involuntarily either slow it down, increasing up your running but others accelerate your craft usefully into a wail. Decoding the effect of each tile is almost as important as finding the ever.

When you have

mastered the art of well avoidance you must face the challenge of the robots. These mechanized French patrol the maze with deadly intent. Your cannon can account for the early droids but in later levels they become indestructible. Your only hope of evading these creatures is to wall them off with your impenetrable wall.

The third major hazard to your health are the pits and charms. To clear these you need a good run-up and good timing to use the jump capabilities of your craft.

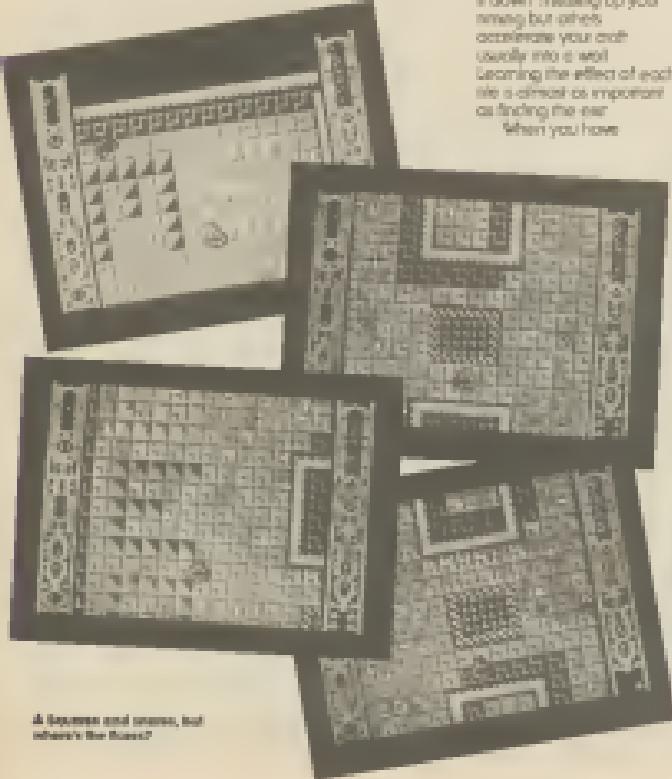
Each level has its own hazards and internal conditions before entering each maze you are given a read out of these conditions and the effects they have upon your craft. Certain levels cause some of your ship's functions to fail thus creating new complexities for you to overcome.

To aid your quest for fame and fortune a bonus ship is awarded every twenty thousand points. To help you accumulate this veritable fortune in bonus points bonuses can be collected from currents which sporadically appear in the maze. Caution should be exercised when harvesting bonus points as the currents do not always blow favourably for your craft.

Although mastering the variations of the maze is far from easy (even after your brain has ceased reeling from the unusual method of movement) it is strangely addictive.

The allure of the game lies not in the coverage graphics or the bup of your cannon but in the challenge it presents. Your ship responds well to your commands, allowing those with quick reflexes to handle even the most stringent of the maze's trials.

AP



A square and square, but where's the maze?



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Championship Golf



THE GOLF
STRATEGY GAME

RELAXATION

ENTERTAINMENT

EDUCATION

RELAXATION

ENTERTAINMENT

PLAY GOLF FROM ALL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS



CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF
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THE NATIONAL
GRAND PRIX
SPECTACULAR
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COUNTRY CHAMPION
GOLF CAPTAINS
GOLFING MASTERS
FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
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COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP
COUNTRY CHAMPION
GOLF CAPTAINS
GOLFING MASTERS
FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
FOOTBALL CHAMPION
HORSES & HORSES
HORSES & HORSES



DEPT YC 114 CLIFTON ROAD,
SHEFFIELD, BEDFORDSHIRE,
S017 5AN

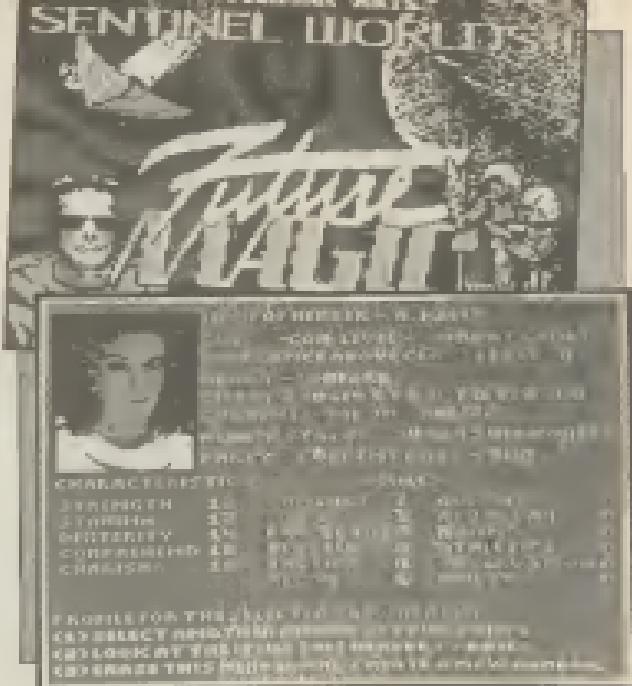
TELE: (0862) 611100

Supplier: Electronic Arts
Price: £14.99 Disk

Welcome to the Federation, this is an unparalleled chance to explore strange worlds, make interesting claims and get your head blown off!

As a new recruit you not only have to combat the hidden menace of the Raiders but face the dangers of budget cuts. This does not match the severity will wobble or the aliens will wear shiny suits but something far more insidious. Thrown into deep space by the Federation you are left to your own devices armed only with a compact pocket blaster and a few laser computer guided interceptor combat pods.

Together with your four other crew members (all five crew members can be created individually or you



SENTINEL WORLDS 1

TRIPE MAGIT

CHARACTERISTICS

CHARACTERISTIC	DATA
STRENGTH	100
ENDURANCE	100
INTELLIGENCE	100
COMPUTER SKILL	100
COMBAT SKILL	100

It is time for the Federation to defend its planets against the alien invaders. The Federation is a group of planets joined together in a common cause. Each planet has its own unique strengths and weaknesses.

SENTINEL WORLDS 1

can use the five provided) you must learn the identity of the mysterious visitors, and counter the threat. To do this you will place your life in peril many times as you seek out new encounters and knowledge. Tuning into the Federation frequency allows you to pick up information on recent hostile actions and if you are lucky you can come in time to beat a few aliens.

The journey starts on board your craft, provide a battle between the raiders

and fear of transportation. Using your eight directional movements you guide your craft to the action. Here you can lock onto a vessel to either communicate or attack. If battered your laser fire automatically of the needed energy. To prevent a raider from escaping, your weapon you can utilise the ship's computer and inflict it to shadow the enemy vessel. Many of the computer functions can be improved if your crew have the nerve and skill to

drive the programs, but beware the unskilled can decrease the efficiency of the computer as easily as enhancing it.

After mopping floors with the enemy and recovering a few credits for your trouble you can begin the search for information. There are two main ways of gathering information about the raiders. The more dangerous method is to cripple and board a hostile vessel, not recommended for weaker bargaining parties or you can visit the

many worlds for a quick chat. When landing on a world you switch from the spaceship to an off planet vehicle. With this vehicle you can explore the subtleties of land biome life. If any of the life gets a little restless you can always blast it from the safety of your ATV.

Exploring yourself is a great way to pick up information but for those that prefer a face to face confrontation there are always the battle cults.

When sized-up a crew

POST APOCALYPSE

He's def. he's rad, he's
absolutely MENTAL. Put
your hands together, or
he'll blow them off, for the
second most scandalous
freelancer in the world
(second to Duncan Evans)
POST APOCALYPSE Er
Where have you all gone?

Orc, Shafft

I think you are the most offensive
most bad mouthed pile of shit in
the world. You probably even smell
bad!

Daren Wheely (Scangangore)

PA: There Daren!

One Shall Take

I think YC is cool, but I have a few
questions I'd like to feed in your



gavest direction:
1. Is YC a new name for the old
(and extremely boring) Your
Commodore?
2. Who does your website?
3. Who is the Purple Robot really?
4. Is Pro Mountain Bike Simulator
really THAT bad?
5. How many entries do you get for
each competition is it worth
entering?
6. What is your favourite game?
7. Is Blackstar ever going to join a
team for Super Wonderboy?
Peter Mills (Coventry)

PA: 1. Yes. 2. Lee Barnardson-Wood, Alan Lathwell and now Nik Henderson himself all contribute scribbles. 3. The Purple Robot (are you thick or something?) 4. Yep (or is it like that?) 5. Well over a thousand, but it's worth entering for
the sake of causing like more hassle.
6. Anything with loads of death in it.
7. Yep, pretty soon!

Fat Nuk

Has anybody noticed the similarities
between Nik Henderson and
Monsieur (of Smiths fame) and how a
sick one? I think Monsieur is great so
this is a big compliment from me.
Sharon Campbell (Edinburgh)

PA: Oh bloody hell it's a Nikster!
Now you've blown it, he's had a the
bit of Mount Everest already

Another fort

Has Jim Black ever played a game
before? His review of Double
Dragon II was well out of order.

He freely admits that he has
never played Double Dragon and
he gives a great game. In my view
a complete stink if the son of be
bothered to play the game beyond
level two then he shouldn't be
allowed to review it. I think
William Potton (Bristol)

PA: Sorry, but I couldn't be bothered
to read the rest of your rubbish!

shh that Jezzy

I notice that in the February issue of
Your Commodore (sorry YC a
magazine that I have been buying



Proposed 'Children of the Death' poster
A. BURGESS



PA. What a plebil! Don't you realize that the inclusion of violent pictures serves to validate the explicitness of the subject matter? Children must live feel bad imagery to be able to signify what is right and wrong. Anyway, what's wrong with school?

Academic

I have noticed that in your last two issues of YC, a superb magazine since the change there have been many references to the case of Rod House (even on your own page!) especially in the artwork. Does this mean that you are a 'kook' or a 'rogger'?

I poster such bands as Pet Shop Boys, New Order and Hello myself! Jones, Hollow, Nottingham

PA. And House, yeah! (Hope I'm o Death, Death, Death and the Death) Ha ha. I'm mentionin' that he's move into the club scene (I mean Cheesy De La Soul, Lil' Louis) as well as any old block country blues (John Lee Hooker, Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf), Ash is Iris, The Mekons and U2. And Austin likes anything with Sheep in it.

Don's about a year again... doesn't time fly when you're visitin' someone? A thought for the month? Never crossin' fingers with a tree with Dutch elm disease. Its fate would be on God's in the hand!

FLAMEHEAD
IS
COOL



Send complaints, comments and amazing amounts of cash to:
**POST APOCALYPSE,
THE FESTERING DUNGPOOL,
YC,
ARGUS HOUSE,
BOUNDARY WAY,
HEWEL HEMSTEAD
HP2 7ST**

In this See-Dee-oge
Code Masters jump on the
band wagon. Jeff Davy
examines its Darling
intentions

Some. The Blue Peter studio. "Hello Hello children! Today we're going to connect our VHS to our CD player. What we need is a computer, a VHS, a set of headphones, sharp scissors and a reel of double-sided sticky tape."

Now plug the headphones into the VHS, and with the sharp scissors you might need to grown up to help you out, cut the wire just below it goes to the headphones. Poke the wire into the jaycon port, stick it down with the sticky tape, turn everything on and (VHS) VHS (CD) CD!

BBC Announcer Oh dear we seem to have lost "Blue Peter" until **Neighbours** there's an episode of the popular sitcom "Whoopsie Blahop" your Cassette's on fire.



Richard Darling
- Computer
enthusiast, best
friend, best
brother,
absolute
genius and
absolute
geek.

Initially the Code Masters boys have one they prepared earlier, a lead to connect a CD player to a 64 and a disc (compact hard disk) to go with it containing thirty-four games. What's more, it's only £19.99.

How did all this happen? Captain Mike Clark, the coders, PA, supreme. Nobody does anything original. While thinking about the Ted Corbin programme of International Rugby for the 64 (was Days Nine?) given some hardware to play with he opened up and found out how it worked.



A Richard Darling
- No - Darling's here.

I have a general interest in technology, says Ted. With a CD you can have lots of information and get at it quickly, at random access. Rather bizarrely the system is using the 64's speaker to playback the CD.

Ted comes up not only with a cable but a way of loading games in around 20 seconds from CD. This gave Code Masters the idea to produce, as David Darling puts it, a compilation with style. The best of Code Masters.

They did it because they found that 50-60% of people who buy the Code Masters games have CDs. Natty dog! If the compilation was released on disc it would take at least ten and taper, sigh, all that winding back and forth!

It's of most advantage to 8-bit

users with cassette-based systems, considers Richard Darling. The CD version naturally has the edge, says Mike. "we all love the machine" (there's enough floating to be decent?)

Being a rather technical chappie Ted demonstrated how it worked. You plug one end of the cable into the CD player's headphone socket and the other into the jaycon port. Because of a huddle of components at one end of the special cable the 64 can understand the CD, even better after playing in a small loader program from the disc.

To get a game you just select the required track (game?) and whatever there is! If you press

Return you just need to select another track and that begins to load.

If you have the cable you're going to find it very useful, says Mike mysteriously. There could be any number of loaded products in the future. Bigger games, huge multi-levels, enormous capacity for several sub-games and hidden levels... factors possibilities. For instance, he sees no reason why

CODE MASTERS AND

these couldn't be a real Dragon's Lair for the tell on a CD—anything that relies on massive amounts of storage would be a catch—the boos!

None of this explains a mysterious research mission to the Far East. Richard and Ted announced they were going to Taiwan, recalls Mike. "They said they were staying for four days. They ended up staying for three weeks! What did they do? Maybe the company might accept answers on a postcard in a return for a CD pack? Maybe not."

Review 'n' rating

To review every one of the staggering amount of games is a

STERS CD'S

Hercules took. So I'm not going to do it. (You're no Hercules, are you? Ed) As CM's Mike Cook put it, "It would be difficult to recommend one game as developingly commanding given that there are so many good games on it."

There are some real doozies on it: *ATV Simulator* (a great cross-country buggy game for two players); it's probably one of the best if not the best. Mike explained how fast it was:

"My team's a second, the fastest you can update it... but then he wrote the game!"

There's also *Re: Ski Simulator* (another great two-player game, this time full of on-piste action); *Treasure Island* (a crazy (or crazy-adventure puzzle game for egheads); and *Four Soccer Simulations* (or *Four Roots*—game).

For those up and what do you get? Controllable zombies!—nearly £19. Just for those four. And there's another twenty games on the CD romping!

For an incredible £9.99 a game, you can't really go wrong. You also

get four loading and a mega-useful mod.

I can see only one disadvantage you need a CD player!



Test again, a
laptop is
happier after
getting the
CD



Jeffrey Dewey, his name sounds like gravy, targets a small software house with large ambitions

W

ant to see an action role-playing game on computer says Julian Gollap of Houston-based Target Games. With his brother Nick, he's helping to change that through their latest project: *Lords Of Chaos*.

So why program the old fantasy RPG? "It's my favourite sort of game and obviously based on Chaos, there aren't many fantasy strategy games around, most of them are pretty soft."

The original Chaos was a Spectrum game (1980) comprising

TO THE MANA BORN

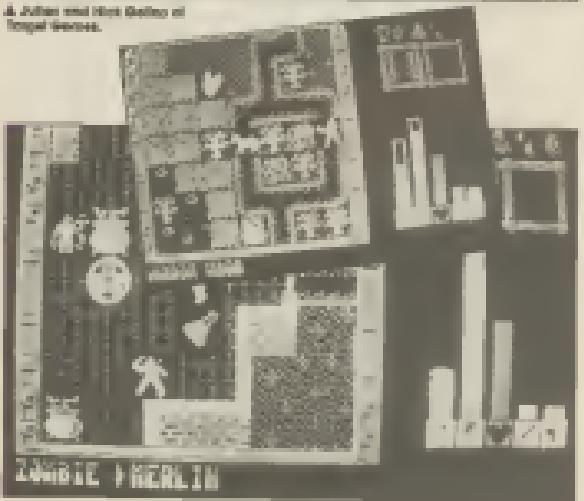
of the book, these! from Games Workshop, the well-known tabletop role-playing game company. Their short-lived software section produced a few games in 1984/85 and then had its plug pulled, something Julian is still bitter about.

He left graphics firm LucasArts and Rebatard Software (another predecessor to a local game), were for Red Shift Software, which no longer exists. After that he went to Games Workshop where he wrote Chaos and worked on Battle Cry before starting on the far budget strategy game Rebatard (soon out of Rebatard Productions) for Firebird Silver, to be followed a few years later by Rebatard II.

He very nearly stopped programming but came back to the fold to establish Target Games with brother Nick and brother Peter. Their philosophy being: to produce high-quality strategy games, which are designed to go beyond the middle road.

Their first release, *Lower Squad*, did exactly that. A strategy game with solid near-3D characters and a degree of action and charm that put em in there with other games of the genre. After an disastrous self-publishing attempt, the company signed to Blode who relaunched

Julian and Nick Gollap of Target Games.



Levels of Chaos. Ah.

Laser Squid and will be publishing the new game too.

Lord of Chaos has a simple concept. There are up to eight wizards who have to compete for victory points and after one 'wars' must disappear into a portal to win the game. A player accrues points by finding objects, killing the other wizards (magically, of course), bashing them, creating and casting spells.

Which is where it gets fun. Players create creatures by casting certain spells. The harder the spell, the more it costs to cast and the more incredible a creature is likely to be. It's oil dependent on Mana, which is the magical power of the wizard. This goes down when a spell is cast but can be rejuvenated by some of the objects lying around.

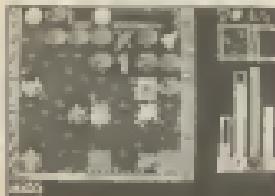
Creature spells start with the lovely (but not twice as nice) *Werewolf* (go through amongst many other *Demives Beasts*, *Kelpies*, *Zombies*, *Vampires* all they way up to the most powerful creatures of all - *Dragons*, which come in *Green*, *Red* and *Gold*, the most powerful of all).

The one also a variety of other spells, projectile spells like magic lightning, resonance spells such as the *Tangle*, *Fire*, *Flood*, *Fire*, or *Goat* which advance across the landscape like the *Red Weed* in *War of the Worlds*, and more intangible spells such as *Subversion* (of other player creatures).

The conflict is played out on a wide expanse of terrain (which you can look around or see on to the map,) which is covered in wizards' strongholds, chess objects, swamp terrain and, by the time the game has got going loads of pseudo-3D sections, stomping round the map picking things up and hitting each other.

Every game will be different in mind-boggling, says John. He's right too.

Lord of Chaos will be released by Glode Software or Laser for the Commodore 64.



Mr Maggot





NEON ZONE

then for sure you're going to have a ball on the follow-up.

Talking of driving games, *Jaileca* (now there's a name you don't hear much) was 100 hours just released in the ever driving game-based on the Paris to Dakar rally, called *Big Run*. Did you know that there are more



Goofy by goofy, it's been a whole month since I've written in on instant down here in the Neon Zone. It seems like only yesterday when I was clocking up a pretty cool (I thought) 120,000 on a three ball *Jaileca* machine. Beat that, mother?

I freely admit to being a pinball fanatic, but I'm not the only one. Down at Vegan Macaroni they staged a 24hr non-stop pinball marathon, instead of *Chicken in Space* recently, played on one of the two pinballs permanently on display there, an old *Bally Space Invaders* machine in fact. Congrats to them for raising well over £300 in the process.

One month I think I promised news of the follow-up to *Chase HQ* from Taito... applied Special Criminal Investigations. You wanna know about it?

"Well, it takes up exactly where *Chase HQ* left off, I mean, the original was OK, but completely unconvincing if you think about it. Like, you're supposed to be a cop, right? Shoot out of Miami Vice style? And all you do to stop the bad guys is knock their motors around a bit. Believable? Nope. The whole

ingredient missing was... *guts*.

Special Criminal Investigations remedies this with a vengeance. Like before, you zoom off in your motor, giving chase to pacified villainy, but this time, when you get near them, do you just give 'em a shrug? Nooo... it's leaning out of the window with a magnum and **BOOMMM!!**

And if you're good... and I mean very good... you get something from special dropped from a helicopter like a coconuts. And then you start taking the measures out with that Community policing if any, but if you did enjoy the original

SPECIAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION





A. *Midnight Resistance* - gun-toting action

Special
Edition
of investigation



driven and spectators killed in this rally than any other on the international race calendar? It's quite surprising then that the game doesn't involve trying to run people down - you just have to drive fast.

Controls are simple - acceleration, pedal, 4th gear and steering wheel with you making your way through the various stages of the event - starting in the bright lights of Paris, but soon entering the rugged terrain of the Sahara. Although the implementation is good, the graphics are neat and the scrolling and sprite scaling smooth enough, it has to be said that the game is a little lacking in the originality stakes. Still, if you are into driving yourself it's worth having a go to see if you agree with me.

If you're not into driving, then maybe it's more action you're looking for. How about *Quod Bles?* *Quod Bles?* They're these small

motor things that you see quite often in these action events like *Run the Gauntlet*. Take it from me, they are frantic fun to ride in real life - and now Namco has given you the chance to find out for yourself in a game called *Four Box*.

It comes in a double unit so you can play head to head against a friend as you sit down on the bike's saddle and let the throttle wide open. Spin those wheels, clutch those gears, fall over those snow banks! Great stuff! Expect to see loads of these about this year.

One you won't see too much of but is worthy of note is a game from a company called Castle Remained. For its pinball machines, the Big C has suddenly switched to a deep-thinking game - *Eliminator*.

Using largely digitized graphics, you control a disembodied hand which has to dislodge lots of other unusual intrusions. Use balloons, or toy tanks, which have a tendency to fire back, for example.

You have three weapons, your hand can stamp down on the floor directly below you (so crushing anything underneath), grab something out of the air or drop a beam of pulsing energy across the room as desired.

While all this is going on you have to watch for living objects. Like the *Wasp*, try grabbing him and your hand will shrivel in agony as it stings you.

Deeply surreal, you might not enjoy playing the horribly bizarre game but on the other hand, you might. For something completely different try *it*.

When I *grew* got 4 legs at 15 years old and would join you *Midnight* off as soon as look at you. What else but *A. teletype* *Mutant Ninja Turtles?* *Yup*, the company that put the *Cow* back into *Puddin*

is now coming to an arcade near you.

Basically a four player (yes, four player!) martial arts bash, it's quite a bit of fun when Raphael, Leonardo, Donatello and Michelangelo get into action against the bad guys. Lightweight four C64, if there's no crowd of you out for a giggle.

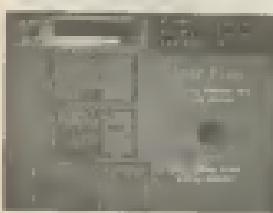
Dotelot has come up with some goodies lately. *Robocop* for example and more recently *Secret Agent*. Now comes another that is likely to be very successful for them *Midnight Resistance*.

Revolving small sprites here but the control is interesting, using a rotary joystick. It moves eight ways in the usual manner to move your central character but the knobs on top also require to clear your line of fire so you can be running one way and firing in the other. Very sensible.

Eminently playable - even when



A. *Midnight Resistance* - gun-toting action



A. *Midnight Resistance*



A. *Midnight Resistance* - A second hand game



the following summer, he got his job on the Hollywood set of a classic film, as well as test driving London's Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

Finally, one of the first of these puzzle games that I seem to be getting up here in the dozen or so recent times, as the manufacturers are trying to outdo another. This of course, which has changed. Blockbuster is a classic, and so is not called them. However, it is a very good game, but now or ever, a decent game has emerged from the place. Block Hole from Novotrade.

Jumping Space Invaders with several levels, single space ship, moving left/right across the bottom of the screen, firing pixels upwards. Downwards from the top of the screen come various shaped shapes which you have to shoot blocks up at them to make complete rectangles out of them. When this is done, the various shapes will disappear. You are to be followed by many other small and the shapes, which it is the bottom of the screen, and you have to life.

Simple, but very addictive. Block Hole is a very difficult one to look out for. It's your personal arcade, which is probably where I'm going now. I'll never mention more fun. But remember, never. Don't pass both flippers at once, will you?

Color.

Follow My



▼ Big Blue



▼ Big Blue



▼ Big Blue - Block hole shooting action



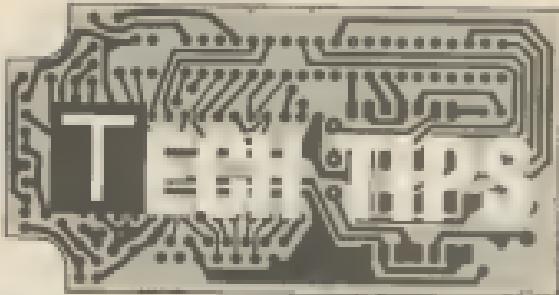
Dear Miles,

I have been several games and demos where the upper and lower areas of the border are removed, allowing spaces to be placed where not normally possible. Could you please give me a routine to do the effect, or explain how to do it?

Kevin Thomas, Herts

Dear Kevin,

After reading your letter, I checked some games I have and I came up with this routine:



LPO	SH	Disable interrupts
	LDA 16	Set acc. Vol
	LDX 249	Set X-Vol (Raster Line)
LPI	CPL 32265	Check raster comp. neg
	BNE LPI4	Branch if not the correct raster line back to LPI4
	STA 32265	Store acc. of vertical scroll register
	LDA 27	Set acc. Vol
	LDX 51	Set X-Vol (Raster Line)
LP2	CPL 32265	Check raster comp. neg
	BNE LP2	Branch if not the correct raster line back to LP2
	STA 32265	Store acc. of vertical scroll register
	JMP LPO	Repeat routine

I hope that the above routine is of some use to you and that it helps you with your coding.

Dear Miles,

I am currently writing myself a simple machine code monitor. I have need coding a routine that when inputed with a hex number will read off from the memory location inputted, and display the content as hex bytes. The problem I am having is converting the contents of the memory location to screen code. Would you please explain how it should be done?

Mark Jackson, Bexleyheath

Dear Mark,

Thanks for writing to me with your question, and I am pleased to tell you that I do have the answer and very easily it is too. Quite simply what you have to do is LOAD the accumulator with the hex value AND it with 00001111 leaving you with a value from 0 to 13. Check to see if that value is 10 or greater. If so then subtract 9 giving you 0 letters from A-F. If the value is 0-9 then add 48 giving you a number from 0-9. Now store the contents of the accumulator at, say 1020 (hex)

this putting a number of letter on the screen. Drop into Now re-load the accumulator with the original #DX value. This time since the accumulator has places to the right then AND it with 00001111. Once again check if the value is greater or less than 10. Move the A reg. or say 1024 (dec). Now you should see the original hex value on the screen again.

David Taylor

After reading your article on raster routines in PC's User magazine (Commodore Day User) I wanted to find out two points regarding raster bytes.

1. Is a so-called 'vertically split raster bar' a genuine raster bar?
2. If the above question is yes, then could you explain how such an effect is done?

J. Summers, Scotland

Dear J. Summers,

Let me start by answering your first question: is vertically split raster colour bar is a real raster colour bar and is relative using some form of bitmap or colour check. The way that it is done is fairly simple but involves extremely careful and

precise timing. After experimenting, I found that the best method was to blank out the screen by POFFing 20265 to 0. The next procedure is to load onto the cleared raster line where you want the colour bar to start.

Now read off a colour into the accumulator and store it to 20260. You should be able to do this around seven times, then these will be one raster line with seven splits of on. Keep doing this for the amount of raster lines you want to cover.

The reason I turned off the screen is because it allows you the same amount of cycles to empty raster line (unlike when the screen is on).

I am sorry that I can't give you a listing, but it would take up most of the page. I hope that the information is of some help to you.

I hope that answers your question. I checked an old routine I had for doing this above and it 'worked O.K.' so you shouldn't have any trouble doing a similar one yourself.

If you have any programming problems hints and tips, then write to:

Tech Tips.

YC.

Argus House,
Boundary Way,
Hemel Hempstead
HP2 7ST.

I will be back next month with more questions and answers on machine code programming.

Miles Barry

SEX AND SOFTWARE



Photo by Steve A.

Q. What does The Sun have in common with computer games?

A. Page 3 girls



Photo by Steve A.



This option is censored. A



A. Sex sells, sex sells!

Mad Mackerel, Son Fox and Connie Russell have all made their appearance in software adverts in strip poker games, on floppies and games in typically scanty cover. Page 3 publicity sells papers and it sells computer games. But should it? MP Diana Shor is already heading the issue to ban Page 3 material from our daily papers, and the Organisation Against Sexism in Software (OASS) has been set up to try to combat similar issues in computer games. So what's all the fuss about? Is there really any harm in showing off a bit of pixelized flesh or are the anti sexism campaigners just getting their knickers in a knot?

If there's anything designed to get people's blood boiling, it's sex. It gets more people upright and interested than the National Health Service and water privatisation put together. Everybody's got an opinion about it and given half a chance, they'll run it down your throat. Computers can't tell us to condom as you might think they haven't got all that much to do with it, but there you're wrong. Sex and gender affect everyone - and everything - and games are no exception.

The main points of argument are easy to spot. For something to be sexist it's got to discriminate against women purely on the grounds of their gender. That means that anything which portrays women as less intelligent or capable than men simply because they are women is a definite no-no. The same goes for portraying them as if the only thing that's interesting about them is the way they look. You know the general body shame about the brain.

Soon looking and a lot of game packaging and advertising seem to appear shockingly ill. Flip through a few back issues of *Your Commodore* and you'll find more than a couple of ads sporting a picture of a sexy blonde not overly endowed in the clothes.

department. More often than not there's just a subtle hint of sexuality like the female tennis player's andim peering out from beneath her skirt in the ad for Peeling Skin but every now and again someone releases an ad which is so overt it causes something off a site.

Remember Psycho Pig's LBD? Or the strength of the (possibly) raccoo' would, the ad which featured an almost topless model stretched out on a billboard very far more memorable. Or how about Christine Russell posing regrettably in supposedly sexy mox-leopard skin bikini plus leather whip on the cover of *Men's Health*? Does refused to sell it with a full size picture of Christine on the front so Men's Health had to publish a special head and shoulders version just for them.

Product like Sam Fox Strip Poker or *Men's Christmas Box* are exactly aimed at fulfilling the cause of women's liberation. On the ad they don't even bother the eye very much. However interesting you might find Sam Fox in the flesh there has to be a limit to the attraction afforded by a pair of 'bloody' low-resolution breasts.

Even without boudoir forecasts and naughty histories a lot of games hardly go out of their way to show women in a positive light. For example, have you ever thought about the goals of games like "Diplomacy" or "Solitaire"? Some feature into girls notably incapable of looking after herself has got into a pickle and is just desperate for her macho, hard man boyfriend to come and help her out. Doesn't reinforce your confidence in the independence of the other sex, does it?

Harmless fun? Well, it's unlikely to harm anyone physically. The argument that page 3 girls are directly linked with the violent sexual abuse of women is pretty tenuous. As long as you're a healthy sex-obsessed individual. In the first place, looking at a pic of Christine Russell topless or in a bikini isn't going to make you go out and rape someone. Even if you can establish a definite connection between rape and page 3 in a specific incident that wouldn't be a valid enough reason for banning it. It's like saying that because John Hinckley the man who tried to shoot Ronald Reagan, was obsessed with Jodie Foster all her movies should be scrapped.



A sample number

That's obvious. But there are more subtle ways in which games can undermine the role of women. Close your eyes for a second and picture a page 3 girl. Then to one the first thing you think about is her brainpower. If society placed men and women on a totally equal footing it wouldn't make the tiniest bit of difference. For every page 3 girl there'd be a page 7 tella somewhere else. Nobody would think the girl is sex for posing as the nude any more than they'd think body of the looks.

But right now that's not the way things work. Like it or not society still makes it harder for women to succeed than men. There will a tendency to assume that women are less capable of sound thought. Girls aren't encouraged to do sciences at school and employers often discriminate against women when they're handing out jobs. Most of our MP's are men, over 50% of the population they represent is female.

Anything which depicts women in an inferior role reinforces that inequality - whether it's come TV, films or computer games. The question is, should we be trying to stop it? On the one hand, taking a few filters off the front of a porn box isn't going to change people's attitudes. But then, it just goes to show how little respect one half of the population has for the other.

Another definition to the front of 'T'



they only find them interesting when they're wearing a garter. You may think the view that women belong to the kitchen is absurd but every time you buy a product with a sexist slant you're getting another link in the chain which binds them to the kitchen sink.

"Whatever you think of the moral argument there's another by-product to all this. Hugge-hugge-advertising aimed at kids excludes most girls from the glamour scene. At school computing is considered a boys' subject at home the brothers get the PCs and the sisters get the prams, of work women use word processors, boys become the engineers. If a girl ever gets to take a look at a game or a magazine everything about it is designed to put them off."

Personally I don't think there's any reason why girls shouldn't enjoy anything from shoot 'em ups to adventure games just as much as boys. The only reason they don't is because they're conditioned to think that a computer won't interest them and all the game blurb they ever encounter just works to reinforce that. Maybe if some of the games were less one-sided and the game scenarios had a more 'real' feel, approach women's attitudes could change as well. It won't happen overnight and it won't happen without a change in women's education. But if it does happen it might actually bring a breath of fresh air to software.

One of a minority of software houses currently attempting to encourage a non-sexist policy is Audiogames. The company's boss Peter Collier reckons that getting women interested in software could bring new life into games. "If publishers sold more units to all those extra female customers they'd make more money. That way you could plough a lot of your profit back into development and design. And anything that lets you spend more time on game development has to be good for the industry."

There's only one reason some publishers carry on using video columns and producing strip poker games: money it sells. Whether you produce a game or mediocre it stands to shift a few more units if there's a blonde in a miniskirt on the front. As for the cash, it comes from you, the consumer. When you pay your money, you make your choice. Pick a lot of licensed games

and the publishers buy more stories. Ask for more from Fox and you'll probably get her. Played overtly sexual pinupomania and if enough people do it, you'll probably get a response. Whatever you decide about sexism, this is one issue about which it's easy to make your opinions known. If you've got the cash you've got a voice. And here's your voice to you.

1000



TOUCH TO IMAGE

1977. 100 specimens were collected from the same area, and 100 more were collected from the same area in 1978. The 1977 and 1978 collections were made in the same way as the 1976 collection.

John 1:1-18, 20-23, 29-36; 3:1-12; 4:1-34; 5:1-15; 6:1-15; 7:1-18; 8:1-11; 10:1-10; 12:1-11; 13:1-17; 14:1-14; 15:1-17; 16:1-15; 17:1-19; 18:1-19; 19:1-16; 20:1-10; 21:1-19.

you can never be too careful. I have
had a few bad experiences with
unscrupulous dealers, and I would
not like to have any of my readers
experience the same.



EUGENE GOES TO CAMBERLY

Ashley Carter-Colma arrives at Digital Integration in a swoosh of ser stream and afterburner, and discovers certain manoeuvres before bailing out

Digital Integration is a Camberley-based software house which occupies several offices on a small, out-of-the-way industrial estate. It has been in business since 1982 when it produced *Fighter Pilot* on the humble 386-1. Since that inauspicious milestone, DI has built a sound reputation as producer of the best simulations around.

Amongst its past titles are *Tomahawk*, *TT Fencer* and *Bobasleigh*, which, along with *Fighter Pilot* and *II-16 Counter Pilot*, were all simulations of their subject. In amongst all of these simulations there lurks a game which is more of an arcade-style affair. That game is *Advanced Tactical Fighter (ATF)*. A bit of a digression for



Digital Integration who are currently waiting on a 16-bit version AT92.

If you ask someone who Digital Integration is, the chances are that they won't know. This is not surprising, as the company tends to keep a low profile. Its strategy tends to be long term publicity campaign during a game's development. This is usually followed by a sudden outburst of interest at the game's completion. On launch, the game is widely acclaimed, then DI seem to vanish into the background while the sales start climbing up.

If 16 Combat Pilot has taken nine-plus years to complete, it was developed over eighteen months. It is team of programmers and designers whose emphasis was always on speeding up the program. Dave Marshall, head of Digital and project designer and manager, "We constantly tried to shave microseconds off of the reaction and movement time to create as realistic a simulation as possible." The Commodore 64 version of F-16 was worked on by Dave with Chris Merley, programming and graphics by Les Dougherty.

The team has worked long and hard to cram as much detail into the 64 as possible. As a result, the 64 and Amiga versions are technically almost identical. Of course, the 64 cannot match the Amiga's graphics capability or speed, and the objects are wire frame instead of solid 3D. However most of the features of the 16-bit version are still represented.

The 16-bit version was optimised as the best simulator available this side of a 32-bit machine, generally used by the Ministry of Defence for training real combat pilots. The 64 version manages to capture the same feel as its 16-bit counterpart and uses the maximum amount of available memory space. Despite this, the graphics have not suffered and the game still looks polished. However, the future for DI in the 64-bit market looks to be fairly limited.

The sixteen-bit market is still being explored. However it's definitely the future for DI, you can do so much more within a more powerful machine. It's not that we want to leave the eight-bit market but more that the size of the machine can't really take the complexity of the projects any more. There's only so much that eight-bit machines can do. As it is, it was a struggle to cram F-16 Combat



Pilot into the 64

The initial sales have hit around 17,000 units or so across the 16-bit market. It's always hard to assess the exact level of sales for a simulation because its shelf-life is so long. But the total sales overall are expected to top 100,000. Such a Digital Integration success after launching a new product that they can survive through eighteen months of development without worrying financially. Now that F-16 Combat Pilot has been released, the sales will continue throughout development of their next projects. And so, as success continues.

So much has changed during the age of computer home entertainment in a very short while and yet Digital Integration is still going strong into the 1990s. Many

F-16 Fighter Pilot 64

companies have tried to cope with the recession in sales by changing its image in product or long term strategy. But Digital has stuck to its guns, obviously having found the correct formula that runs around. In the meantime, many of the smaller companies have gone by the wayside, but DI are now expanding.

With the backing of Electronic Arts, it is marketing F-16 Combat Pilot in America. This is a huge market onto which many British software houses fail to break. Digital Integration's move into that lucrative yet fickle market is yet another response to its achievements as a software house.

—H. J. Hartshorn



Head line banking 64



STICK UP!

Competition PRO

500

FUN + 1



COBRA

MICROSWITCH JOYSTICK

Supplier: EUROMAX

Price: £11.95

The Cobra looks more than a little like the old Quickshot II (it's microswitched) but therefore makes very loud clicks and it's styling and looks well designed. I found that the trigger was quite hard to use but performed well on most games except The Champ, the accuracy was not possible to achieve. ACC.



92%

Supplier: DYNAMICS

Price: £14.95

The Competition Pro is widely acclaimed as the best joystick ever. It certainly has aged well as it has been around for some years now. It still looks distinctive with queer microswitches and good fine buttons. It is precise and easy to use. One of my favourites. ACC.

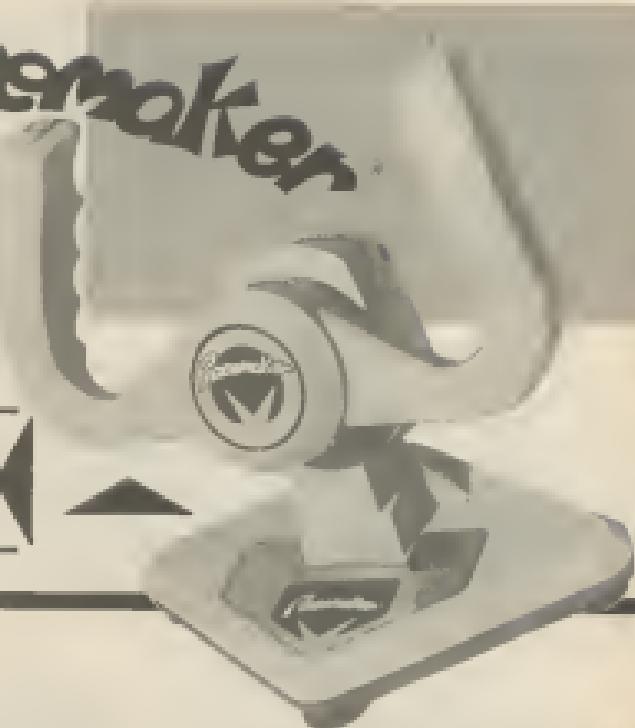
75%

Racemaster

Supplier: EUROMAX
Price: £26.95

Ihe Racemaster is an adventurous joystick. It looks like a plane's control stick although it doesn't feel as strong as some of the others reviewed. Control was difficult to achieve on everything but Chase HQ which the stick is literally built for. It worked well on racing games but one for tons of the space only ACC.

65%



THE ULTIMATE SUPERSTICK

87%

Supplier: EUROMAX
Price: £32.95

Ihe Superstick is one impressive joystick. It has left or right handed fire buttons, a nice microswitched shaft (silver!) and is info red. You plug in the receiver to the joystick ports and the joystick itself sends out signals. My only criticism is that the fire buttons are 'squinty'. Pretty good ACC.



KONIX SPEEDKING

Supplier: KONIX

Price: £10.99

The is my favourite joystick of the lot. A fantasticqueeze option, great microswitches and a good hand grip make this one of the most user friendly ever. It's very easy

to find directions with the stick for games like The Champ whilst still good for games like Chase HQ. I would definitely recommend this one for the serious gameplayer. A must!

ACC



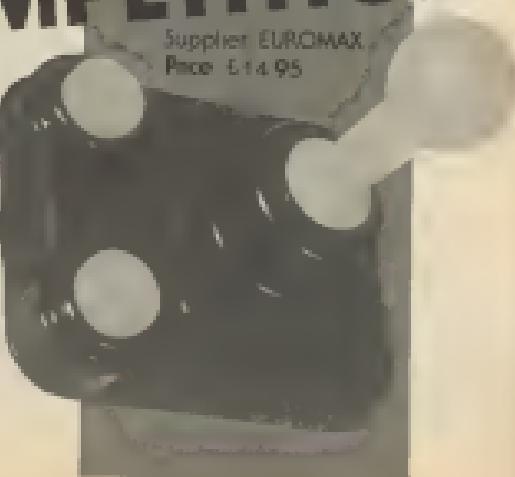
98%

PROF COMPETITION

84%

Supplier: EUROMAX
Price: £14.95

This is a direct take-off of the Competition Pro, although it looks like a cheaper version of the same joystick. The shaft is smooth instead of groovy and the fire buttons are small and squishy to touch, making it harder to use than the Pro. Otherwise it's virtually identical. Because it's light and it's easy to use.



PURPLE FISH THANG

It's purple time again!!

Bloop - Oh dear fish friends, though your loathing even of over-indulgence (namely Chromax) has come and gone here (in the aquatic wonderworld of *Coat* the time difference means that our annual celebrations of all things fishy have yet to take place. And somehow thanks to communicating with the wifey TC, boy Henderson by FTL mail (and like the fool has managed when you work things out a hangover to our entire population). This outrage shall not go unpunished oh gubbers, even now the great war engines of *Coat* are being prepared, but first here is the latest gossip brought to me by my spies:

ACTIVISION

Amanda Barry, Activision's PR supremo, is leaving the exciting metropolis of Reading for dull old London and a job at Lynne Francis PR, infamous for its Zen Buddah Temple in the centre of the office and its terrible coffee.

MIRRORSORT

Following on from the *Bloodbath* disaster more bad news from Activision concerns Dynamic Debugger. Apparently the programmer was supposed to have finished the game by the beginning of November, but however steadfastly refused to contact the company. Our fifth on the spar (in his bowl of counsel) also reports increasing levels of strife at the company. While partner's calls about games not working echo around the product department all day and personal callers are walked up behind stacks of returned discs the two main girls, Cathy in PR and Cherie in Product are striving for the title of Activision Sex Symbol. The office is apparently covered with blusher and eye shadow.

FOCUS

Well known publishing house Focus well known because off the decent people have left it thanks to the jobs for the boys management has inflicted is defeat on boy Henderson and his plucky troops. Using such nefarious tools as pinching the ball, and its heady mixture of knuckle burns and low alcohol lager of half here the footballers of Argus were unlucky losers in a tight game decided only when the referee blew his whistle at the end. Commented our PR after the game: "They caught us by surprise they started the game ten minutes before we arrived". It was the secret tactic that finished us off though. Who would have believed that they could pass the ball?

The final score in this nail-biting game was Focus 10, Argus 1. I thought I told you to forget about that 'ball'.

EMAP

The one golden name of EMAP publishers of reading CAGs and

Game Industry
Karma Burns



buyers to ACE has been furnished recently. First the Deputy Editor of ACE, Richard Hayes, or Dick as most people fondly call him, (unfortunately himself) provided a good watering spot for inform dogs by telling over dead plunk or a piss bath "I was touch and go for Dick but the soffing ministrations of HHS nurses brought him back from the brink and he was discharged the next day.

Then there was a great furor over a review of *Ghostbusters II* in ACE when it was given the equivalent of 25%. A cowardly pseudonym was used on the review which has all the hallmarks of a writer working near a thousand miles from Pray Court. Activision were so incensed by the review which humour has it was so damning because the writer didn't get the review copy before anyone else that the US parent firm has called and lawyers informed. It also resulted in Lucy Speake having a cracked teeth meeting with Dick Hayes of ACE and Terry Poor the publisher.

That's all from us the Purple Fish Lord for the month. Until next time may your bowel be forever clean.

...it's dynamite!

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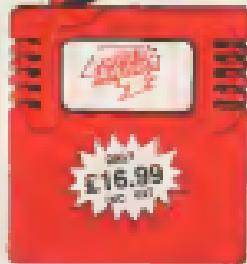
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